



# International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

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Subject:	<b>Global Harmonisation of HF Band Plans</b>		
Society:	<b>RSGB</b>	Country:	<b>United Kingdom</b>
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## 1. Introduction

The band planning process within the IARU is performed very much at a regional level, which has resulted in a number of inconsistent band plans for the HF bands across regions. Given the global nature of HF propagation it would be desirable to align the HF band plans across regions as much as possible.

## 2. Background

The original differences in the band plans between Region 1 and Region 2 had created several problems on certain HF bands, notably 3,5 MHz, 7 MHz and 10 MHz - especially given the easy propagation between Western Europe and the Americas on these bands.

Aligning band plans is not always straightforward, especially when the amateur allocations can be different across regions, also complicated by the fact that band plans are mandatory in some jurisdictions and voluntary in others.

It proved possible to align the data mode segments of 3,5 MHz and 10 MHz by Region 1 adopting the existing Region 2 band plan. In terms of actual operation on the bands, this made very little difference as communication is easy between both regions on 10 MHz 24 hours per day and on 3.5 MHz during the hours of darkness, so in terms of signals heard and activity on the band, very little changed.

The situation at 7 MHz was slightly more complex as originally Region 2 had access to 7.0 – 7,3 MHz and Region only 7,0 – 7,1 MHz. At WRC-09, Region 1 gained access to the 7,1 – 7,2 MHz segment so it was possible to extend the band plan to fill the new allocation. Region 2 then adjusted the bottom end of their band plan to align with Region 1. The result is a harmonised band plan, even though the amateur service allocation is different in each region.

On the new WRC-15 band at 5 MHz, Region 1 and Region 2 are implementing the same band plan and it is hoped that Region 3 will do the same.

Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 show the latest versions of the IARU Region 1 band plan on the segments discussed.

Frequency, kHz	Max BW, Hz	Preferred Mode and Usage
3 560 – 3 570	200	CW, 3 560 kHz – QRP Centre of Activity
3 570 – 3 580	200	Narrow band modes – digimodes
3 580 – 3 590	500	Narrow band modes – digimodes
3 590 – 3 600	500	Narrow band modes – digimodes, automatically controlled data stations (unattended)
3 600 – 3 620	2 700	All modes - digimodes, automatically controlled data station (unattended), (*)
3 600 – 3 650	2 700	All modes, SSB contest preferred, 3 630 kHz – Digital Voice Centre of Activity, (*)

**Figure 1: Section of the 3.5 MHz band plan in Region 1**

5 351.5 – 5 354.0	200	CW, Narrow band modes – digimodes. See NOTES
5 354.0 – 5 366.0	2 700	All modes, USB recommended for voice operation (##). See NOTES
5 366.0 – 5 366.5	20 (!)	Weak signal narrow band modes. See NOTES

**Figure 2: 5 MHz band plan in Region 1**

7 000 – 7 040	200	CW, 7 030 kHz – QRP Centre of Activity
7 040 – 7 047	500	Narrow band modes – digimodes
7 047 – 7 050	500	Narrow band modes – digimodes, automatically controlled data stations (unattended)
7 050 – 7 053	2 700	All modes – digimodes, automatically controlled data stations (unattended) (*)
7 053 – 7 060	2 700	All modes - digimodes
7 060 – 7 100	2 700	All modes, SSB contest preferred

**Figure 3: Section of the 7 MHz band plan in Region 1**

10 100 – 10 130	200	CW, 10 116 kHz – QRP Centre of Activity
10 130 – 10 150	500	Narrow band modes – digimodes

**Figure 4: 10 MHz band plan in Region 1**

### 3. Proposal

Given the structure of the IARU Regions and the process for implementing band plans at regional conferences, it is suggested that a liaison group of representatives from each of the three Regions be setup to identify inconsistencies in the HF band plans and suggest possible solutions that could be presented at the General Conferences in each Region.

### 4. Recommendation

That the IARU Region 1 proposes to Regions 2 and 3 to jointly set up a liaison group which would identify inconsistencies in the HF band plans and work towards the objective of achieving harmonised band plans across all three Regions.