

Changes to radio microphones and radio hearing aid systems:

In order to allow additional channels to be provided within the current allocation, the band has been reorganised based on 50 kHz channel spacing, providing a total of 34 narrow band channels to select from instead of the current 20.

Additionally, for wide band radio microphone systems, the band has been changed to 200 kHz channel spacing, thereby providing 2 additional channels.

For free standing or hand-held radio microphones the permitted radiated power has increased from 2 and 5 milliwatts to 10 milliwatts. For body worn radio microphones the permitted radiated power is increased to 50 milliwatts.

A body-worn radio microphone is defined as being a device which is intended to be worn next to or strapped to the user's body. Either of the two channel plans may be used until the 31 December 2003. After that date only equipment which meets the new frequency channel plan may be placed on the UK market. Existing equipment may continue to be used after that date but systems may not be expanded to include additional devices complying with the earlier band plan.

Radio microphones: The current allocation for the licence exempt bands is given in IR 2030, table 2.21. The revised plan is based on a regular channel spacing of 50 or 200 kHz. For 50 kHz channel spacing, the channel numbers are 10 to 35; where the channel centre frequency is equal to $173.3 \text{ MHz} + (\text{channel spacing} \times \text{channel number})$. For 200 kHz channel spacing, the channel numbers are 1 to 7; where the channel centre frequency is equal to $173.6 \text{ MHz} + (\text{channel spacing} \times \text{channel number})$. When the new allocation is available for use this will be published on our website, together with details on the change over period. An amendment will also be issued to the IR 2030.

Other bands are also available for professional applications which still require a licence, see Annex 1 of this information sheet

Radio hearing aid systems: The current allocation for the licence exempt bands is given in IR 2030, table 2.22. The revised plan is based on a regular channel spacing of 50 kHz. The preferred channel numbers are 1 to 5, 7 to 9, where these channels are not available then channels 10 to 35 may be used; where the channel centre frequency is equal to $173.3 \text{ MHz} + (\text{channel bandwidth} \times \text{channel number})$. Channels 10 to 35 are shared with radio microphones (see paragraph 42). When the new allocation is available for use this will be published on our website, together with details on the change over period. An amendment will also be issued to the IR 2030.

Reproduced from the Radio Communications Agencies Website. For Information Only.

22 May 2002