

TRAFICOM/103478/03.04.05.00/2022

12.1.2023

## **Radio Frequency Regulation 4**

### **Background and legal basis of the regulation**

The Regulation concerns the use of radio frequencies. Its objective is to guarantee a fair availability of radio frequencies and efficient, appropriate and sufficiently interference-free use of frequencies.

The Regulation is issued under section 96, subsection 1 and section 97, subsection 2 of the Act on Electronic Communications Services (917/2014).

The Radio Frequency Regulation concerns the radio frequency spectrum 100 Hz–400 GHz. The Frequency Allocation Table annexed to the Regulation contains provisions on the allocation of different radio frequencies, frequency bands and sub-bands for different purposes of use. The Table also contains the requirements for transmitting and receiving frequencies and the used channel spacing. The Table also contains provisions on radio transmitters' bandwidth of transmission, duplex separation, transmitted powers and other corresponding radio characteristics. The Frequency Allocation Table annexed to the Regulation also applies to electrical equipment that are used for scientific, industrial, medical or other similar purposes and designated to generate radio frequency energy (ISM equipment).

The Frequency Allocation Table also takes into consideration the Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which have been implemented in Finland by Decree 12/2000.

The Regulation requires regular updates, which are based on international frequency rules and recommendations as well as currently planned changes to the utilisation of frequency bands.

### **Other related regulations and statutes**

The use of radio transmitter frequencies is also subject to the provisions of the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency's Regulation 15 on collective frequencies for licence-exempt radio transmitters and their use. Regulations 4 and 15 are updated simultaneously.

### **Objectives of the Regulation**

The objective of the Radio Frequency Regulation and the radio frequency utilisation plan is to safeguard the efficient use of the radio frequency spectrum. The radio frequency utilisation plan is published with the aim of supplying equipment manufacturers and users with information on the use of radio frequencies and on the protection against interference provided for radio networks by means of frequency planning. In addition to equipment design applications, manufacturers need this information in order to fulfil their obligations under Article 10 of Directive 2014/53/EU regarding the information to be included in user instruction manuals.

### **Drafting process**

Stakeholder consultations will take place during summer 2022 via Lausuntopalvelu.fi. Information on the request for comments will be provided on the Agency's website and via email to stakeholders. After the national consultation process, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment will notify the European Commission of the Regulation in autumn 2022 (3 months) in accordance with Directive (EU) 2015/1535.

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## Comments received through consultation

The comments received during stakeholder consultation are available (in Finnish) on the website Lausuntopalvelu.fi. Traficom has sent responses and comments directly to the parties who submitted comments.

## Changes and impact assessment

The amendments being now made to the Regulation aim to promote the construction of local wireless broadband networks, enable the use of radio links with higher capacity, update conditions for the use of frequencies, exempt certain radio transmitters from licencing and implement European frequency decisions.

The new version of the Regulation, version 4 AD/2023 M, includes, for example, the following amendments (all amendments will be listed in a separate annex to the Regulation):

### Fixed service

A completely new radio link channel plan has been added for 56 MHz channels in the 7 GHz frequency band.

### Mobile service and short range devices

- References to the following Commission Implementing Decisions have been added:
  - (EU) 2021/1730 – Railway Mobile Radio
  - (EU) 2022/173 – radio systems in the frequency bands 900/1800 MHz
  - (EU) 2022/172 – short-range devices (SRD)
  - (EU) 2022/180 – short-range devices (SRD)
  - (EU) 2022/179 – WAS/RLAN
  - (EU) 2022/2324 – mobile network base stations on aircraft (MCA)
- For the sub-bands 5150–5250 MHz, 5250–5350 MHz, 5470–5725 MHz and 5945–6425 MHz for wideband data transmission equipment, the following comment has been added: “Restrictions on use indoors and outdoors and on board automotive and railway vehicles and aircraft (see Regulation 15).”.
- Base stations have been exempted from licencing and their restricted use allowed on specific RHA68 channels for hobby usage and professional communications.
- For mobile service sub-bands 457.500–458.100 MHz and 467.500–468.100 MHz, information about the use of digital radios with channel spacing of 6.25 kHz and 12.5 kHz being allowed has been added to the comments column.
- In accordance with Commission Decision (EU) 2022/180, the frequency band 9 kHz–30 MHz is allowed to be used for enclosed research equipment using Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) and the equipment are exempted from licencing.
- Ground- and wall-probing radar imaging systems in accordance with ECC Decision ECC/DEC/(06)08 and the harmonised standard EN 302 066 in the frequency band 30 MHz–12.4 GHz are exempted from licencing.

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**Satellite service**

- The comments concerning the sub-bands 399.9–400.05 MHz, 14.25–14.5 GHz and 27.5–29.5 GHz have been supplemented with references to ECC Decisions and standards and information about the fact that the sub-bands include licence-exempt terminal equipment.

**Amateur radio**

- Repeater station channels have been added to the frequency bands 29.520–29.560 kHz and 29.620–29.660 kHz.
- An allocation for repeater station channels has been added to the frequency bands 433.075–433.150 MHz and 438.075–438.150 MHz.

**Entry into force**

The amended Regulation enters into force in 13 January 2023.