

Guidelines for the use of IRDR frequencies by HFCC Members.

1. Purpose

These Guidelines are designed to enable IRDR frequencies to be used for Emergency Broadcasts by HFCC Members.

2. Background

The HFCC - International Radio Delivery association in cooperation with Arab States and Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Unions has developed the International Radio for Disaster Relief (IRDR) project. The purpose of the IRDR project is to offer to the world community a global platform for a wireless radio service to audiences in disaster and post-disaster situations when local and even regional communication and information networks are destroyed or overloaded and the population affected by the disaster suffers from an information blackout. The distribution of radio content has become more fragmented with the advent of new - mainly digital - technologies, but the role of shortwave broadcasting as "crisis radio" was again identified during recent disasters. Shortwave radio is capable of covering all world regions and therefore its implementation for disaster risk reduction and mitigation needs a co-ordinated system.

The aim of the project is to identify and select dedicated frequency channels completely free from interference; a HFCC IRDR working group has been set up for this purpose.

The project would not be possible without the system of global online co-ordination of frequencies, developed by the HFCC in accordance with International Radio Regulations.

The IRDR project has been conceived in the spirit of the Hyogo Framework as the contribution of international radio broadcasting to the integrated global management of disaster risk reduction. The Sendai Framework is its present valid version and the IRDR frequencies will be used for transmission during disasters caused by natural, environmental, and technological hazards and risks only.

3. Current situation

The following frequencies have been identified for emergency use, 24 hours per day all the year-round:

- 13620 kHz;
- 15650 kHz;

- 17500 kHz;
- 21840 kHz.

The group has also identified frequencies in the 11 MHz, 9 MHz and 7 MHz bands for emergency use (not 24 hours per day):

- 7400 kHz, 00:00-12:00 UTC;
- 9430 kHz, 01:00-09:00 UTC;
- 11840 kHz, 14:00-24:00 UTC;

The ultimate aim is for these frequencies and their adjacent channels to be cleared for 24 hours per day, subject to further cooperation from FMOs. An updated list of IRDR frequencies and times has been available on the hfcc.org website.

The IRDR channels are intended to be used for emergency broadcasts only, by members of the HFCC, ASBU and ABU-HFC.

The submission of a requirement on one of the IRDR frequencies or on their adjacent channels, (+/- 5 kHz), generates a warning message.

The IRDR channels are not yet assigned for emergency broadcasting in Article 5 of the ITU Radio Regulations.

4. **Registration**

- a) The use of any of the selected IRDR frequencies is based on the "first come/first served" principle;
- b) The IRDR requirements shall be uploaded as a part of the standard requirement file together with other entries of the frequency management organisation. The organisations own FMO code shall be indicated in the corresponding column. A code "RDR" may be used in the Broadcaster field;
- c) The registration of an IRDR requirements of organisations that are not HFCC/ASBU/ABU members has to be done through the HFCC Secretariat by sending the relevant file to the address vcip@hfcc.org
- d) IRDR frequencies should include "IRDR" in the "Notes" field of the requirement file;
- e) Upon reception of an IRDR requirement a specific circular message is distributed to the general address hfcc@itu.int;
- f) A separate list of the IRDR requirements is published in both the Members and Public areas.