

Guidelines for the use of IRDR frequencies

1. Purpose

These Guidelines are designed to enable IRDR frequencies to be used for Emergency Broadcasts by HFCC, ASBU and ABU-HFC Members, and non-Members¹.

2. Background

The HFCC - International Broadcasting Delivery association, in cooperation with the 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" has again been 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 the Radio Regulations.

Recommendation ITU-R BS.2107 "Use of International Radio for Disaster Relief (IRDR) frequencies for emergency broadcasts in the High Frequency (HF) bands" contains further information on the use of IRDR frequencies.

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, in both "A" and "B" seasons:

- 13620 kHz;

¹ The registration of IRDR requirements by organisations that are not HFCC/ASBU/ABU-HFC members should be done via the HFCC Secretariat by sending the relevant requirement file to: vcip@hfcc.org

- 15650 kHz;
- 17500 kHz;
- 18950 kHz;
- 21840 kHz;
- 26010 kHz.

The following frequencies have also been identified in the 6 MHz, 7 MHz, 9 MHz and 11 MHz bands for emergency use in both "A" and "B" seasons (not 24 hours per day):

- 5910 kHz, 00:00-01:00 UTC;
- 7400 kHz, 00:00-13:00 UTC;
- 7400 kHz, 21:00-22:00 UTC;
- 7400 kHz, 23:00-24:00 UTC;
- 9430 kHz, 01:00-10:00 UTC;
- 9430 kHz, 18:00-24:00 UTC;
- 11840 kHz, 00:00-01:00 UTC;
- 11840 kHz, 09:00-24:00 UTC.

The ultimate aim is for the above frequencies and their adjacent channels to be clear for 24 hours per day, subject to further cooperation from FMOs. The latest list of IRDR frequencies and times is available at: [International Radio for Disaster Relief \(IRDR\)](#)

The submission of a requirement on an IRDR frequency, or on one of its adjacent channels (+/- 5 kHz) generates a warning message during the HFCC upload process.

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

4. Registration

- a) The use of any IRDR frequency is based on the "first come/first served" principle;
- b) IRDR requirements shall be uploaded as a part of the FMO's requirement file together with other requirements of the Frequency Management Organisation. The organisations own FMO code should be indicated in the corresponding requirement field. The code "RDR" may be used in the Broadcaster field;
- c) The registration of IRDR requirements by organisations that are not HFCC/ASBU/ABU-HFC members should be done via the HFCC Secretariat by sending the relevant requirement 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 of the HFCC website.