

CHANGE OF FREQUENCIES AVAILABLE FOR BROADCASTING

AT 7 MHz FROM 29th March 2009

The 29th March 2009 is a very important date for the HF Broadcasting service. Not only is it the start of the A09 broadcast season, but it also marks a change to the frequencies available in the 7 MHz band for broadcasting, as agreed at the World Radio Conference held in 2003 (WRC-03).

Until 29th March 2009, the frequency band 7 300-7 350 kHz is available to the Broadcasting service in the Americas and the band 7 100-7 350 kHz is available everywhere else.

From 29th March 2009, the band 7 300-7 400 kHz becomes available in the Americas while, in the rest of the world, the band becomes 7 200-7 450 kHz. In addition, a new Footnote has been added as follows: -

5.143C Additional allocation: after 29 March 2009 in Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Qatar, the Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen, the bands 7 350-7 400 kHz and 7 400-7 450 kHz are also allocated to the fixed service on a primary basis. (WRC-03)

This means that both the broadcasting and fixed service share the band 7 350-7 450 kHz on an equal basis in the Arabic countries listed. Therefore, use of any frequency in the band 7 350-7 450 kHz by the broadcasting service from a transmitter located in any one of the listed countries is subject to approval by the administration of that country.

So what does this mean for the Broadcasting service?

The situation is a little complex but is as follows:-

- Frequencies in the band 7 200-7 300 kHz can be used for broadcasting anywhere outside the Americas;
- Frequencies in the band 7 300-7 350 kHz can be used worldwide;
- Frequencies in the band 7 350-7 400 kHz can be used worldwide but are subject to prior approval from the administration if transmitted from one of the Arabic countries listed in the Footnote;
- Frequencies in the band 7 400-7 450 kHz can be used anywhere outside the Americas but are subject to prior approval from the administration if transmitted from one of the Arabic countries listed in the Footnote.

It should be noted that use of any frequency in the range 7 200-7 450 kHz by the broadcasting service as given above is under the provisions of Article 12 of the ITU Radio Regulations. ITU Circular Letter CR/282 giving full details can be found on the HFCC website at <http://www.hfcc.org/global/wrc07/R00-CR-CIR-0282!!MSW-E.doc>.

The main change in the usual coordination procedure under Article 12 is that frequencies in the range 7 350-7 450 kHz from any transmitting site located in an Arabic country can only be coordinated after formal approval by the administration concerned.