

2016 Band Plans

In contrast to 2015, when Ofcom licence and IARU changes were quite extensive, the 2016 band plans feature relatively few changes. Modest updates from ongoing alignments of repeaters and gateways by ETCC and other editorial changes are the main amendments.

However, we do note from correspondence that some amateurs have not digested the full extent of the changes in 2015 and earlier. The Excel master on the RSGB website has detailed change notes that can guide readers.

The HF updates for 2016 are largely confined to FM usage in the 29MHz band where our improved alignment of gateways and repeaters with IARU Region 1 now enables a simplification. An extra licence note regarding power limitations in 1.8MHz has also been added. We would stress that there is no change to 5MHz where UK licence conditions continue to apply – though we are conscious of the WRC-15 outcome.

VHF/UHF changes are largely confined to 70cm where we have been able to clarify FM-analogue or digital voice usage in some of the gateway and repeater segments as part of ongoing ETCC work. Licence notes regarding power limits have been supplemented in the 50 and 70MHz bands.

Band plans are living entities and evolve over time. Please ensure you only refer or link to the current ones on the RSGB website and remove any older ones you have locally. Unfortunately we still note some websites and unofficial usage charts have obsolete information and urge that these are removed. The up to date band plan, including the master Excel files, can be found on the Operating section of the RSGB website – and if you are unsure, by all means contact the relevant Spectrum Manager: hf.manager@rsgb.org.uk, vhf.manager@rsgb.org.uk or mw.manager@rsgb.org.uk

Murray Niman, G6JYB, RSGB Spectrum Chair