

2017 Band Plans

The 2017 Band Plans appear on page 38. In principle there is only one main (and quite important) change, in 5MHz, though there are several smaller changes that arose last June from the interim IARU Region 1 meeting in Vienna that updated 80m and 30m and VHF WSPR. The always-up-to-date master Band Plans are on the RSGB website at <http://rsgb.org/main/operating/band-plans/> and include a detailed change note history plus other notes.

5MHz: The UK allocation at 5MHz is a unique and complex band (effectively a collection of 'bandlets'). Out of band operation is a risk for the unwary, so do take care. Audio offsets added to nominal radio setting can easily put transmissions out of band. AROS and the Primary User continue to note such occurrences, which must be avoided.

On 1 January 2017 several countries obtained access to the 5351.5 – 5366.5kHz WRC-15 allocation. At present there is no UK Licence change, so it is also vital to realise that we do NOT have access to the full 15kHz segment and there must be no UK transmission operation in the 'missing' frequencies to amateurs in other countries that do have the new WRC allocation.

Importantly, this year a new 'Note 4' has been added to the RSGB 5MHz Band Plan. This stipulates that all intra-UK contacts be removed from the WRC segment if at all possible, and to use the other capacity we have in 5MHz. This aligns with the provisional IARU band plan for efficient use of that limited segment.

Whilst the Society has enquired of Ofcom with respect to the WRC segment, we have no desire to see a reduction in UK power and frequency privileges down to what the WRC allocation entails, so that aspect may take some time to fully resolve.

General: Band plans evolve over time. Whilst this year's changes are modest, we do expect changes next year based on the outcome of the September 2017 IARU Region 1 Conference, for which the Society has an ongoing consultation on its Forums.

Please ensure you only refer or link to the current band plans on the RSGB website and remove any older copies you have locally. Unfortunately we still note some personal and club websites carry older copies and unofficial usage charts. As these inevitably age, their obsolete guidance eventually becomes counter-productive.

The up-to-date band plan, including the master Excel file, is on the Operating section of the RSGB website – and if you are unsure, by all means contact the relevant Spectrum Manager:

- **For HF:** hf.manager@rsgb.org.uk,
- **For VHF:** vhf.manager@rsgb.org.uk or
- **For microwaves:** mw.manager@rsgb.org.uk

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