

TRAFICOM/155502/03.04.05.00/2023

16.2.2024

Radio Frequency Regulation 4

Background and legal basis of the regulation

The Regulation concerns the use of radio frequencies. Its objective is to guarantee a fair availability of radio frequencies and efficient, appropriate and sufficiently interference-free use of frequencies.

The Regulation is issued under section 96, subsection 1 and section 97, subsection 2 of the Act on Electronic Communications Services (917/2014).

The Radio Frequency Regulation concerns the radio frequency spectrum 100 Hz – 400 GHz. The Frequency Allocation Table annexed to the Regulation contains provisions on the allocation of different radio frequencies, frequency bands and sub-bands for different purposes of use. The Table also contains the requirements for transmitting and receiving frequencies and the used channel spacing. The Table also contains provisions on radio transmitters' bandwidth of transmission, duplex separation, transmitted powers and other corresponding radio characteristics. The Frequency Allocation Table annexed to the Regulation also applies to electrical equipment that are used for scientific, industrial, medical or other similar purposes and designated to generate radio frequency energy (ISM equipment).

The Frequency Allocation Table also takes into consideration the Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which have been implemented in Finland by Decree 12/2000.

The Regulation requires regular updates, which are based on international frequency rules and recommendations as well as currently planned changes to the utilisation of frequency bands.

Other related regulations and statutes

The use of radio transmitter frequencies is also subject to the provisions of the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency's Regulation 15 on collective frequencies for licence-exempt radio transmitters and their use. Regulations 4 and 15 are updated simultaneously.

Objectives of the Regulation

The objective of the Radio Frequency Regulation and the radio frequency utilisation plan is to safeguard the efficient use of the radio frequency spectrum. The radio frequency utilisation plan is published with the aim of supplying equipment manufacturers and users with information on the use of radio frequencies and on the protection against interference provided for radio networks by means of frequency planning. In addition to equipment design applications, manufacturers need this information in order to fulfil their obligations under Article 10 of Directive 2014/53/EU regarding the information to be included in user instruction manuals.

Drafting process

Stakeholder consultations will take place during autumn 2023 via Lausuntopalvelu.fi. Information on the request for comments will be provided on the Agency's website and via email to stakeholders. After the national consultation process, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment will notify the European Commission of the Regulation in autumn 2023 (3 months) in accordance with Directive (EU) 2015/1535.

Comments received through consultation

The comments received during stakeholder consultation are available (in Finnish) on the website Lausuntopalvelu.fi.

Changes and impact assessment

The amendments being now made to the Regulation update conditions for the use of frequencies and implement European frequency decisions.

The new version of the Regulation, version 4 AE/2024M, includes, for example, the following amendments (all amendments will be listed in a separate annex to the Regulation):

Mobile service

Simplex channels 459.250; 459.275; 459.550; 459.600; 459.625; 459.675; 459.750 and 459.775 MHz for short term events have been added to the comments for the sub-band 459.025 – 460.000 MHz.

Simplex channels 468.950; 468.975; 469.250; 469.300; 469.325; 469.375; 469.450 and 469.475 MHz for short term events have been added to the comments for the sub-band 468.725 – 469.700 MHz.

Aeronautical mobile (R)

The national common frequency for power-driven flight has been changed from 122.500 MHz to 122.925 MHz.

The national common frequency for flight calibration 122.400 MHz has been removed.

Amateur radio

The use of the sub-band 435 - 438 MHz has been changed according to the IARU recommendation so that the allocation for amateur radio communication starts from 436 MHz and wide-band data transmissions are allowed. The allocation for amateur-satellite service remains the same.

Military use

Sub-band 230 - 240 MHz has been allocated for military use. Purpose is to harmonize the use of frequencies in Finland with other NATO countries. In the frequency band 230,016 - 236,544 MHz there is an Eiscat receiver that restricts military use. In the frequency band 230 - 231 MHz short range devices taken into use before 31.12.1998 are also allowed, but they do not restrict military use.

Entry into force

The amended Regulation enters into force in 19 February 2024.