

24 November 2006

Dear Licensee,

Re: VHF Shared Wireless Microphones in 211 – 217 MHz – Changes to assignments from 1 January 2008.

As a Band III licensee, you should be aware that there are forthcoming changes to the way that Ofcom license this spectrum, particularly Sub-Band III, 209.169 MHz to 217.696 MHz. Both JFMG and Ofcom have been providing updated communications on this subject regularly since 2004.

As a result of international negotiations on spectrum usage at the Regional Radio Conference (RRC) in June 2006, the spectrum from 210.880 MHz – 217.696 MHz will be cleared for T-DAB (Terrestrial - Digital Audio Broadcasting) in the UK, and the spectrum from 209.169 MHz to 217.696 MHz has been cleared for DVB-T(Digital Video Broadcasting – Terrestrial) use in Europe.

As you may know the original plans for DAB in the UK involved the whole of Sub Band 3. However, as a result of the RRC negotiations and bilateral agreements, Ofcom has successfully managed to secure Block 10A (209.168MHz – 210.704MHz) for PMSE use. This will not be used for T-DAB in the UK and so will become available for PMSE use for wireless microphones.

In addition, JFMG and Ofcom have undertaken extensive technical testing and planning work since the end of the RRC and are now in a position to announce the new channel plan for Block 10A, which will come into force from 1 January 2008.

The new shared assignments will be:

- 209.2 MHz
- 209.6 MHz
- 209.8 MHz.

They will replace the three shared channels currently in use which will no longer be available after 31 December 2007. The shared channels that will be removed are:

- 216.100
- 216.600
- 216.800

The table below illustrates VHF Shared Wireless Microphone allocations before and after 31 December 2007.

Now	1 January 2008	Comments
175.250	175.250	No change
175.525	175.525	No change
176.600	176.600	No change
191.900	191.900	No change
192.800	192.800	No change
193.000	193.000	No change
199.700	199.700	No change
200.300	200.300	No change
200.600	200.600	No change
208.300	208.300	No change
208.600	208.600	No change
209.000	209.000	No change
216.100	209.200	Replaced
216.600	209.600	Replaced
216.800	209.800	Replaced

What you need to do?

Other than familiarising yourself with the new frequencies so that you understand how your use will be altered, you do not need to do anything just yet.

Ofcom will permit all licensees to continue to use their current assignments until 31 December 2007, but will also allow use of the new frequencies in tandem from the date of issue of any future licence. Ofcom has agreed that licensees will not have to pay for the use of the extra channels in Block 10A during this period (until 31 December 2007) to allow users ample time to migrate to the new assignments.

This will apply to both co-ordinated and shared users for the duration of 2007 but please note, those shared and co-ordinated assignments that are in affected spectrum will disappear from your licences from 1 December 2008 and licences will no longer be able to use them.

Should you have any questions regarding this issue please contact JFMG on admin@jfmq.co.uk or Claire Lyons on claire.lyons@ofcom.org.uk

Yours sincerely



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