



International Amateur Radio Union – Region 1

Newsletter No 70

Permanent HF Committee C4



To: Members of IARU R1 HF Committee, members of IARU R1 Executive Committee, the Chairman of R1 VHF/UHF/MW Committee, the President of IARU and the secretary of IARU.

70.1 Interim Meeting 2016 of Permanent HF Committee C4 in Vienna

Band planning at Interim Meeting 2016

The meeting agreed to modify the IARU Region 1 HF band plan for the 30m and 80m band.

For the new allocation at 5 MHz a proposed plan of usage has been introduced. After approval by the EC at its following meeting in Brussels all these changes became effective on June 1st 2016 as preliminary policy, to be ratified at next IARU Region 1 Conference in 2017.

It has been realised that it is very strange that on frequencies where there is inter-regional communication possibility, we do not yet seem to have the agreement of all regions to the need for a common approach to band plans, where the permitted spectrum allows that.

From the point of view of global harmonisation the C4 Committee discussed the necessary steps how to reach a worldwide common understanding of band plans, their common subdivisions as far as possible and common description of proposed modes, usage and settings of maximum bandwidth.

The physical presentation format of band plans in the regions differs very much; even in regions there are currently a number of presentation formats for band plans. Mode and bandwidth definition are quite different.

All these differences might lead to misunderstanding when an operator wants to be informed about a frequency that is conforming to the band plan for an inter-regional communication.

From Minutes Vienna 2016:

“The meeting strongly encourages development of a global approach to band planning across regions and suggests more formal band planning liaison between Regions 1, 2, & 3. G3BJ suggested that a liaison statement be drafted and sent to Region 2 and Region 3 with a view to help alignment between regions. This should also include the 30m band.”

Since the XIX IARU Region 2 General Assembly has been announced for October 10th to 14th, 2016, the Region 1 Chairman C4 has sent an info paper about the outcome of the Vienna Interim meeting to the Region 2 HF Band Plan Committee.

This info paper explains the background and reasons for the modifications of the Region 1 HF band plan, including the relevant studies.

70.2 Results of IARU Region 2 General Assembly

The IARU Region 2 General Assembly adopted the modification of the Region 1 band plan for the 80m band by introducing a similar sub segment 3570-3580 kHz with max. bandwidth of 200 Hz for CW and Digimodes.

For the new 5 MHz allocation a similar proposal of usage was agreed.

The new Region 2 band plan which became effective October 14, 2016 can be downloaded from:

<http://www.iaru-r2.org/band-plan/>

The discussion of further harmonisation led to a recommendation that Region 2 should solicit support from other Regions to initiate a process for global band plan alignment.

It has been recommended that Region 2 moves to an ongoing band plan process rather than the current every three year update and contribute to bring band plans progressively into alignment on a global basis. (Region 2 doesn't know a permanent HF Committee, like C4 in Region 1).

It is recommended that a review of the band plans across the three IARU Regions will be done to ensure that they reflect

- emerging technologies and other requirements;
- the need to harmonise band plans where inter-Regional communication is a viable prospect;
- taking input from member societies in all regions;
- a common form of presentation of band plans to stakeholders.

Region 2 is proposing to install a small group with members of all Regions working virtually for building a shared view of how band plans in the relevant spectrum can be brought progressively into alignment.

What action is to be taken in Region 1?

It would be probably best that Region 1 is also going to appoint one or two persons as members of the “Global Band Plan Harmonisation Group”.

This could be done either by the next Region 1 Conference or by other means (C4, EC?), if needed earlier.

Example of different presentation and definitions:

Here a presentation of what the 30m band plan looks like in the three Regions:

30m band

Division in segments for the same usage is identical in all three regions, except for wording and bandwidth:

Region 1 10100-10130 kHz, max. bandwidth 200 Hz, preferred usage CW
10130-10150 kHz, max. bandwidth 500 Hz, preferred usage narrow band modes
(Note: CW allowed all over the band)

Region 2 10100-10130 kHz, max. bandwidth 200 Hz, application CW
10130-10140 kHz, max. bandwidth 500 Hz, application CW, Digimodes, ACDS
10140-10150 kHz, max. bandwidth 2.7 kHz, application CW, Digimodes
(ACDS = Automatic Controlled Data Station)

Region 3 10100-10130 kHz, CW
10130-10150 kHz, Narrow bandwidth modes including CW, RTTY, packet and
modes with similar bandwidth not exceeding 2 kHz.

70.3 Region 1 General Conference 2017 - Call for papers

Dennis, ZS4BS, Secretary IARU Region 1 wrote:

“I would like to remind you for the important date leading up to our Region 1 General Conference in Landshut in September 2017.

Sunday 16 April 2017 is the closing date for Conference papers to the Region 1 Secretary”.

The E-mail address to be used for sending papers is: secretary@iaru-r1.org

70.4 New IARU Region 1 Contest Organizer E-Mail reflector?

Most of the problems encountered by the organizers of contests are not covered and discussed in general contest reflectors like cq-contest@contesting.com that concentrates discussions on contesting from the perspectives of testers.

Therefore it may be helpful to have a specialised and focussed platform to share uncommon but relevant news and ideas with other organisers.

Issues may be:

A new contest format somewhere, an interesting prize scheme, a new national call database, results of surveys among contest participants, detected cheating tricks, converting tools for logs,

experiences with SDR technique and software,

asking other owners of appropriate SDR equipment to assist in storing violations in critical frequency segments to observe and prevent out-of-band operation,

even asking contest organisers in countries outside the skip zone to assist in storing a whole band to be able to verify complaints etc.

In addition to the Yahoo group IARUR1HF@yahoogroups.com another closed group has been setup, which may be joined by those interested in cooperation with other contest organisers:

IARUR1HF_Contest_Organizer@yahoogroups.com

Interested persons of your member society may request an invitation to join this group by sending an E-mail to dk4vw@darc.de.

Marburg, 3rd November 2016

73 Ulli / Ulrich

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