

Note to Broadcasters

Clarification of Ofcom's role in monitoring compliance with technical standards by analogue radio licensees

All analogue radio licensees are required to adhere to particular technical standards set out in the conditions of their Wireless Telegraphy and Broadcasting Act licences and in [Ofcom's Site Engineering Code for Analogue Radio Broadcast Transmission Systems](#) (the "Engineering Code"). Ofcom's role in supervising and enforcing these standards is to ensure:

- the efficient use of the radio spectrum;
- the protection of other broadcasters and users of the radio spectrum; and,
- to ensure that the wider interests of consumers are served.

Under the Engineering Code, all transmission systems (other than those used by [Restricted Service Licence](#) holders) are required to be tested for compliance prior to coming into service. A licensee can request for these tests to be performed by a Broadcast Engineer from Ofcom. To do this, a booking must be made at least 20 working days in advance of the intended commission date by email to broadcastradiocompliance@ofcom.org.uk or by phone to 01462428524. Ofcom do not charge Licensees to perform compliance tests. However, if a licensee's system fails the compliance test for reasons that might reasonably have been anticipated, and the issue cannot be rectified while Ofcom's Broadcast Engineers are in attendance, Ofcom may charge for any additional visits that might be necessary.

Alternatively, licensees may carry out their own commissioning tests or contract these out to a third party. Ofcom does not make any recommendations or endorsements of third-party contractors for these purposes. However, the tests require specialist test equipment and expertise; licensees are therefore encouraged to conduct their own thorough research, which may include contacting other licence holders for advice. If licensees choose to conduct their own tests, or commission a third-party contractor, the licensee must advise Ofcom of this course of action at least 20 working days in advance of the intended commissioning date. Ofcom will then require documentary or electronic evidence of compliance within five working days of commissioning. Once Ofcom is satisfied that the system is compliant, permission to transmit will be granted.

Once commissioned, Ofcom's Broadcast Engineers will conduct occasional inspections and tests of licensee's transmission systems to verify continued compliance with the relevant specifications. Ofcom reserves the right to have access to transmitter installations and to conduct other tests as it sees fit, including remote measurement of the licensee's transmissions, possibly without notification. Should

an issue with the compliance of a licensee's transmission system be identified by an Ofcom Broadcast Engineer at any point, the licensee will be contacted by Ofcom directly to resolve the issue. If the Licensee is unsure or needs clarification on any aspect of the Engineering code, then they should contact the Broadcast Compliance Team for confirmation at broadcastradiocompliance@ofcom.org.uk.

It is important that any problems relating to transmission systems which have the potential to affect a licensee's ability to comply with the conditions of their Wireless Telegraphy and Broadcasting Act licences, or with the Engineering Code, are reported to Ofcom by the licensee at the earliest possible opportunity. This is particularly important if a licensee's ability to provide the licensed service is affected for any period of time within the licence period. Reports must be made by email to broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk and broadcastradiocompliance@ofcom.org.uk.