

UK Interface Requirement 2024

**Portable Radiotelephone Equipment in the Maritime
Mobile Service operating in the VHF Bands
(for Non-GMDSS Applications only)**

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Section 1

References

- 1.1 EN 301 178 - Electromagnetic compatibility and Radio Spectrum Matters (ERM); Technical characteristics and methods of measurement for portable Very High Frequency (VHF) radiotelephone equipment for the maritime mobile service operating in the VHF bands (for non-GMDSS applications only)
- 1.2 Of 19 - Ofcom Ship Radio Information booklet.
- 1.3 Of 18 - Ofcom Coastal Station Radio Information booklet

Section 2

Foreword

- 2.1 The Radio Equipment Directive (Directive 2014/53/EU) was implemented in the United Kingdom (UK) by the Radio Equipment Regulations 2017. In accordance with Articles 8 and 7 of Directive 2014/53/EU, this UK Interface Requirement contains the requirements for the licensing and use of portable radiotelephone equipment for the maritime mobile service operating in the VHF bands (for non-GMDSS applications only) in the specified frequency bands.
- 2.2 Nothing in this UK Radio Interface Requirement shall preclude the need for equipment to comply with Directive 2014/53/EU.
- 2.3 It is required by the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 that no radio equipment is installed or used in the UK except under the authority of a licence granted by or otherwise exempted by regulations made by Ofcom. It is a condition of such a licence or exemption regulations as appropriate that the equipment must meet the minimum requirements specified in this UK Interface Requirement for the stated equipment types and for the stated frequency bands.
- 2.4 The requirements given in the main body of this UK Radio Interface Requirement will apply to the licensing of portable radiotelephone equipment for the maritime mobile service operating in the VHF bands (for non-GMDSS applications only).
- 2.5 This UK Radio Interface Requirement will be revised as necessary, for example to follow:
 - i) current technology developments for reasons related to the effective and appropriate use of the spectrum in particular maximising spectrum utilisation; and
 - ii) changes to the available spectrum allocated for portable radiotelephone equipment for the maritime mobile service operating in the VHF bands (for non-GMDSS applications only).
- 2.6 All UK Radio Interface Requirements notified under Directive 2015/1535/EU will be published and will be made available free of charge from the Ofcom web-site at <http://www.ofcom.org.uk>
- 2.7 Further information on this UK Radio Interface Requirement can be obtained from the technical enquiry contact given at the back of this document.

Section 3

Minimum equipment requirements for operation within the UK

- 3.1 The minimum requirements in this document are made for reasons related to the effective and appropriate use of the radio spectrum, in particular, maximising spectrum utilisation.
- 3.2 This UK Radio Interface Requirement gives a high level description of how the spectrum in the UK is used for portable radiotelephone equipment for the maritime mobile service operating in the VHF bands (for non-GMDSS applications only). It does not prescribe technical interpretation of the 'essential requirements' of Directive 2014/53/EU.
- 3.3 This UK Radio Interface Requirement therefore stipulates the necessary equipment parameters for the licensing of portable radiotelephone equipment for the maritime mobile service operating in the VHF bands (for non-GMDSS applications only) in the UK. Table 3.1 contains the relevant equipment parameters. These together with the 'essential requirements' detailed in Article 3.2 of Directive 2014/53/EU constitute the minimum equipment requirements for portable radiotelephone equipment for the maritime mobile service operating in the VHF bands (for non-GMDSS applications only) within the UK.
- 3.4 The technical parameters specified in the UK Radio Interface Requirement are applied to achieve the desired level of compatibility within the VHF bands (for non-GMDSS applications only) and with other radiocommunications services, whilst promoting enterprise, innovation and competition.
- 3.5 This UK Radio Interface requirement provides the necessary technical information which facilitates access to the VHF bands (for non-GMDSS applications only) spectrum by making clear the assumptions that are made in planning the use of the VHF bands (for non-GMDSS applications only) spectrum in the UK. It is not the intention of this UK Radio Interface Requirement to duplicate or impose any additional 'essential requirements' of the Directive 2014/53/EU on products. Any specified parameters within this document are for the purpose of identifying product options and not as a national de facto product requirement.

Table 3.1: Minimum equipment requirements for portable radiotelephone equipment in the maritime mobile service operating in the VHF bands (for non-GMDSS applications only)

1	Frequency band (or bands)	156 MHz to 163 MHz in accordance with Of 19
2	Radio service	Maritime Mobile Service
3	Application	Ship Portable Radio Licence
4	Channelling modulation	G3E 25 kHz
5	Maximum transmit power limit	6W
6	Channel occupation rules	N/A
7	Duplex type/separation	N/A
8	Licensing Regime	Ship Portable Radio Licence
9	Additional essential requirements	The Channel Plan and parameters shall be in accordance with the relevant sections of the ITU Radio Regulations Articles 5, 19, 30-33, 50-54, 57-58, Appendices 13-16, and Appendix 18. National channels shall be in accordance with the relevant section of the tables in Of 18. Authorisation on national channels is dependent on a related Coastal Station Radio licence. Channels not licensed shall be disabled. It shall not be possible for the operator to unblock disabled channels
10	Frequency planning assumptions	N/A
11	Reference	EN 301 178, Of 19 and Of 18
12	Remarks	N/A
13	Notification Number	2000/249/UK

Section 4

Additional performance parameters

(informative)

None specified

Section 5

Contact details

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Section 6

Document history

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	04 Jan 2001	Published
2.0	21 Jul 2005	Rebranded to Ofcom format
3.0	January 2018	Replaced R&TTE Directive 1999/5/EC and Directive 98/34/EC with Radio Equipment Directive and Directive (EU) 2015/1535 respectively. Minor editorials