



UK Interface Requirement 2026

VHF radiotelephone equipment for general communications and associated equipment for Class “D” Digital Selective Calling (DSC)

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Section 1

References

- 1.1 EN 301 025 - European Norm - Electromagnetic compatibility and Radio spectrum Matters (ERM); Technical characteristics and methods of measurement for VHF radiotelephone equipment for general communications and associated equipment for Class "D" Digital Selective Calling (DSC).
- 1.2 Of 18 – Ofcom coastal station radio application form and information sheet, available at <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-your-licence/radiocommunication-licences/maritime-radio>

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 VHF radiotelephone equipment for general communications and associated equipment for class “D” Digital Selective Calling (DSC) 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, in order to be installed or used in the UK, the equipment must meet the minimum requirements specified in this UK Interface Requirement for the stated equipment types and for the stated frequency bands. Nothing in this UK Interface Requirement shall preclude equipment from being placed on the market in the UK that complies with the 'essential requirements' specified in Directive 2014/53/EU.
- 2.4 The requirements given in the main body of this UK Radio Interface Requirement will apply to the licensing of VHF radiotelephone equipment for general communications and associated equipment for class “D” DSC in the UK.
- 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 VHF radiotelephone equipment for general communications and associated equipment for class “D” DSC.
- 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 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 VHF radiotelephone equipment for general communications and associated equipment for class “D” DSC. 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 VHF radiotelephone equipment for general communications and associated equipment for class “D” DSC in the UK. Table 3.1 contains the relevant equipment parameters. These taken together with the ‘essential requirements’ detailed in Article 3.2 of Directive 2014/53/EU constitute the minimum requirements for the installation and use of VHF radiotelephone equipment for general communications and associated equipment for class “D” DSC within the UK. Nothing in this UK Interface Requirement shall preclude equipment from being placed on the market in the UK that complies with the ‘essential requirements’ specified in Directive 2014/53/EU.
- 3.4 The technical parameters specified in the UK Radio Interface Requirement are applied to achieve the desired level of compatibility within the VHF radiotelephone equipment for general communications and associated equipment for class “D” DSC service 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 radiotelephone equipment for general communications and associated equipment for class “D” DSC service spectrum by making clear the assumptions that are made in planning the use of the VHF radiotelephone equipment for general communications and associated equipment for class “D” DSC service 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 requirements for the use of VHF radiotelephone equipment for general communications and associated equipment for class “D” DSC service.

Mandatory Elements (1-9)		
1	Frequency band (or bands)	156 MHz-163 MHz
2	Radio service	Maritime mobile service
3	Application	VHF radiotelephone equipment for general communications and associated equipment for class “D” DSC service
4	Channelling modulation	G3E, G2B(DSC) (See Annex A)
5	Transmit power limit	Maximum 25 W
6	Channel occupation rules	See Annex A
7	Duplex type/separation	See Annex A
8	Licensing Regime	Ship radio licence, individual licence required
9	Additional essential requirements	N/A
Informative Elements (10-13)		
10	Frequency planning assumptions	N/A
11	References	EN 301 025, Of 18 Ofcom coastal station radio application form and information sheet.
12	Remarks	N/A
13	Notification Number	2000/251/UK

Section 4

Additional performance parameters

(informative)

Reference standard EN 301 025 contains additional performance parameters and limits that Ofcom assumes are fulfilled for VHF radiotelephone equipment for general communications and associated equipment for Class "D" Digital Selective Calling (DSC) for the maritime mobile service when planning and managing the radio spectrum in the UK.

Section 5

Annex A

Minimum Requirements

Frequency Range (MHz)	Licence class and radio service	Additional Requirements
156 to 163	Ship Radio Licence Maritime Mobile Service	The channel plan, parameters, classes of emission and operation 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, 18. National channels shall be in accordance with the relevant section of the tables in Of 18. Channels not licensed shall be disabled. It shall not be possible for the operator to unblock disabled channels.

Channel Spacing	Class of Emission	Maximum carrier power	Additional Requirements
25 kHz	G3E, G2B (DSC)	25W	Licensed use of this equipment is dependent on the operator holding the relevant operator's certificate and Authority to Operate or the operator being under the direct personal supervision of a holder of the relevant operator's certificate and Authority to Operate. Authorisation on National channels (Of 18) is dependent on a related Coastal Station Radio licence.

Section 6

Contact details

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Section 7

Document history

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	21 Nov 2000	Initial publication
1.1	22 May 2009	Rebranded to Ofcom format.
1.2	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