

RECOMMENDATION ITU-R M.1226*

**TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WIND PROFILER
RADARS IN BANDS IN THE VICINITY OF 50 MHz**

(Question ITU-R 102/8)

(1997)

Summary

This Recommendation provides technical and operational characteristics of wind profiler radars in frequency bands near 50 MHz. The Recommendation includes representative power to the antenna line, necessary bandwidth, occupied bandwidth, representative antenna side-lobe suppressions and guidance for wind profiler radar sharing considerations. It also contains in Annex 1 representative values and minimum requirements on system performance for wind profiler radars in bands near 50 MHz.

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

- a) Recommendation No. 621 of the World Administrative Radio Conference for Dealing with Frequency Allocations in Certain Parts of the Spectrum (Malaga-Torremolinos, 1992) (WARC-92);
- b) that wind profiler radars (WPRs) are important meteorological systems used to measure wind direction and speed as a function of altitude;
- c) that many administrations plan to deploy WPRs in operational networks in order to improve meteorological predictions and warnings, and support studies of the climate and increase the safety of navigation;
- d) the need for frequency bands in the vicinity of 50, 400 and 1 000 MHz to permit the full performance capability of WPR operations, as requested by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO);
- e) that wind profilers operating near 50 MHz are ideally suited for meteorological measurements (wind, atmospheric turbulence, tropopause height) up to high altitudes (20-25 km);
- f) that, once designed and built, the WPRs could operate on centre frequencies over a range of $\pm 1\%$;
- g) that WPRs may have to share spectrum with other systems both current and future;
- h) that it would be desirable to have a limited number of frequencies authorized worldwide in order to minimize research and development investment in the design of components;
- j) that technical standards would enhance compatibility with other systems within the same band,

recommends

- 1** that minimum requirements on system performance as given in Annex 1 should be adopted by administrations desiring to construct or operate WPRs for operational meteorology in the bands near 50 MHz;
- 2** that the transmitter power should be limited to that necessary to obtain data at the maximum altitude for which the WPR was designed;

* This Recommendation should be brought to the attention of Radiocommunication Study Groups 7, 9 and 11.

3 that the occupied bandwidth (see Note 1) should be as close to the necessary bandwidth (see Note 2) as is technically and economically feasible to provide the required range resolution, noting that reduced values of resolution are generally acceptable at higher altitudes. Values are given in Annex 1.

NOTE 1 – Occupied bandwidth: the width of a frequency band such that, below the lower and above the upper frequency limits, the mean powers emitted are each equal to 0.5% of the total mean power of the given emission.

NOTE 2 – Necessary bandwidth: for a given class of emission, the width of the frequency band which is just sufficient to ensure the transmission of information at the rate and with the quality required under specific conditions;

4 that the unwanted emissions from WPRs should be reduced as much as technically and economically feasible. Values are given in Annex 1;

5 that the antenna radiation pattern should minimize the levels of the side lobes, especially those at or near the horizon. Side-lobe gain values are given in Annex 1;

6 that administrations may develop appropriate sharing criteria, such as frequency-distance (FD) separations in accordance with Recommendation ITU-R SM.337, for specific WPR designs sharing with other systems;

7 that the selection of WPR locations should take advantage of terrain and siting configuration to minimize the possibility of interaction with other systems. Additional enhancements (e.g. fences, berms) and antenna orientation may improve compatibility;

8 that frequencies in the range 40-80 MHz should be chosen, where compatibility is possible, taking into account the necessary protection.

ANNEX 1

Representative values and minimum requirements on system performance for wind profiler radars operating in the vicinity of 50 MHz

1 Introduction

The values given below are based on current knowledge and field measurements on pulse modulated systems.

2 Representative values for operational WPR in the bands near 50 MHz

TABLE 1

System parameter	Range of representative values ⁽¹⁾
Pulse peak power (kW)	5-60
Average transmitted power (kW)	0.5-5
Main beam antenna gain (dBi)	30-34
Beamwidth (degrees)	4-6
Tilt angle (degrees)	11-16
Antenna size (m ²)	2 500-10 000
Height range ⁽²⁾ (km)	1-24
Height resolution (m)	150-1 500

⁽¹⁾ Users of this table should exercise caution in using combinations of these values to represent a “typical” or “worst case” profiler. For example, a profiler operating with an average power of 5 kW while using pulses to yield a height resolution of 150 m would be an unusual system.

⁽²⁾ The maximum operating height depends upon the product: (average power) × (antenna effective area).

3 Values of minimum requirements on system performance

3.1 Emission bandwidth

TABLE 2

Pulse width (μs)	Necessary bandwidth (MHz)	Occupied/necessary bandwidth ratio
1-10	2.2-0.2	≤ 2.5 ⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Values down to 1.5 MHz can be obtained at the expense of higher cost and somewhat inferior performance resulting from pulse shaping. The limit applies to the power and pulse width combination producing the highest power density in the signal sidebands.

3.2 Spurious emission levels

Spurious emission levels should be measured at the antenna input using the bandwidth values given below:

IF bandwidth

- ≤ $1/T$ for fixed-frequency, non-phase-coded pulsed radars, where T = pulse length.
(E.g. if radar pulse length is 1 μs, then the measurement IF bandwidth should be ≤ $1/1 \mu\text{s} = 1 \text{ MHz}$)
- ≤ $1/t$ for fixed-frequency, phase-coded pulsed radars, where t = phase-chip length.
(E.g. if radar transmits 26 μs pulses, each pulse consisting of 13 phase coded chips that are 2 μs in length, then the measurement IF bandwidth should be ≤ $1/2 \mu\text{s} = 500 \text{ kHz}$)

Video bandwidth \geq Measurement system IF bandwidth

Suppression of spurious emission: $>$ 55 dB

Suppression of second harmonic: $>$ 60 dB.

3.3 Antenna side-lobe suppression for specified angles above the horizon

TABLE 3

Angle above the horizon (degrees)	Antenna side-lobe suppression (dB)	
	Median	Minimum
0-5	40	33
5-45	30	23
$>$ 45	23	13
