

National Table for Frequency Allocation (NTFA)

Workshop on National Spectrum Management and Spectrum Management System for Developing Countries (SMS4DC)

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Aamir Riaz

International Telecommunication Union

aamir.riaz@itu.int

Spectrum Management (SM)

Key Terms

	Allocation	Allotment	Assignment
Definition	Allocation (of a frequency	Allotment (of a radio frequency	Assignment (of a radio
	band): Entry in the Table	or radio frequency channel):	frequency or radio
	of Frequency Allocations	Entry of a designated	frequency channel):
	of a given frequency band	frequency channel in an agreed	Authorization given by
	for the purpose of its use	plan, adopted by a competent	an administration for a
	by one or more terrestrial	conference, for use by one or	radio station to use a
	or space	more administrations for a	radio frequency or
	radiocommunication	terrestrial or space	radio frequency
	services or the radio	radiocommunication service in	channel under
	astronomy service under	one or more identified	specified conditions.
	specified conditions. This	countries or geographical areas	
	term shall also be applied	and under specified conditions.	
	to the frequency band		
	concerned.		
Frequency	Services	Areas or Countries	Stations
Distribution to			

Introduction



- It is a government responsibility to develop spectrum management policies that conform to the international treaty obligations of the Radio Regulations while meeting national spectrum needs
 - Within the national legal framework for telecommunications a spectrum management organisation has the delegated authority to prepare spectrum plans that meet government policies
 - National spectrum plans should be reviewed regularly and, when necessary, be updated to keep pace with technology and changing demands
- One of the most important tools for effective spectrum management is the National Table for Frequency Allocation (NTFA). This shows how the spectrum can be used in the country

Developing a NTFA(1)



The NTFA is the published outcome of national spectrum planning

> The NTFA is normally developed by the NRA

- The Regulator would normally establish working groups to undertake the detailed technical and regulatory work and provide the expertise in frequency assignment, spectrum engineering, monitoring and standardisation
- Representatives from relevant government departments would be group members to provide detailed advice on government spectrum use and requirements
- It is also beneficial to invite experts and practitioners from major non-government spectrum stakeholders to participate

Developing a NTFA (2)



The starting point for the NTFA should be the international Frequency Allocation Table

- Work through each frequency band to decide which service allocations are required nationally
- In the case where there is more than one organisation responsible for frequency assignments (for example government and non-government use), decide how frequency bands should be shared between the organisations concerned

Some flexibility is possible with national allocations while maintaining conformity with the Radio Regulations

 Where a frequency band is allocated to several services, the regulator may select which of those services may operate in its territory or may decide to split the band into sub-bands, each allocated to one or more services

Structure



- A typical structure would follow that of the Radio Regulations adding extra columns for national use
- The columns might identify the service and also the "owner" G=Government, NG-non-Government, etc
- > This approach is relatively easy to adopt and ensures alignment with the RRs

А	llocation to Service	National A	Allocation	
Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Frequency and	Use
			Service	
4 063-4 438 N	MARITIME 5.79A 5.109 5. 5.128		4063-4438 Maritime 5.79A 5.109 5.110 5.130 5.131 5.132	G
4 438-4 488 FIXED except aeronautical	4 438-4 488 FIXED except aeronautical	4 438-4 488 FIXED except aeronautical	4 438-4 450 FIXED	G
mobile (R) Radiolocation 5.132A	mobile (R) RADIOLOCATION 5.132A	mobile Radiolocation 5.132A	4 450-4 460 except aeronautical	NG
	0		4 460-4 488	S
			except aeronautical RADIOLOCATION 5.132A	(Mobile NG)
			0.10211	(Radiolocation G)

Detailed information



Against each allocation it is helpful to provide

- Detailed information about the assignment of frequencies or blocks of frequencies to different types of system, application or major use. (Assignments to individual stations are not normally shown at this level)
- Technical conditions for frequency access, for example: channel arrangements, bandwidths, transmitter power limits and equipment standards
- Licensing conditions for frequency access

Developing a NTFA(1)



Using the international allocation table, construct a draft national table by selecting the allocation "column" for the appropriate region

Identify and add all footnotes relevant for the region and country concerned

Identify and reserve in the draft table the frequency bands used by all major international services, systems or applications which are already in use or are likely to be used in the country such as:

- International services for maritime and aeronautical
- Public mobile communications systems
- Broadcasting (especially if there is an ITU Regional Allotment Plan)
- Fixed services use ITU-R recommended frequency arrangements
- Non-public mobile systems
- Fixed and mobile satellite bands (especially if there is an Allotment Plan)
- Public protection and disaster relief radiocommunication systems (see Recommendation ITU-R M.2015)

Developing a NTFA (2)



- Identify and reserve in the draft national table all allocations which would be difficult to use without causing interference to (or receiving interference from) services in other countries such as:
 - Primary Amateur Radio allocations
 - Radio astronomy

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- Frequencies used for Industrial Scientific and Medical applications
- Frequencies used for Short Range Devices. See SM.1896 : Frequency ranges for global or regional harmonization of short-range devices (SRDs)

Collect information on existing national frequency use

- Potential sources include existing licensing and assignment records; request users to provide information from their own records; spectrum monitoring. This can be problematic as often records are not kept or are inadequate
- When existing national use is added to the NTFA, it is possible that some will not conform to the Radio Regulations or will be using frequencies within frequency bands identified for the services and applications listed above. A transition plan may be needed for the migration of non-conforming use to the new plan

Generic contents of the NTFA document



	NTFA	RR REFERENCE
Chapter 1	Meaning of abbreviations	
	Terms and definition	
	General terms	RR 1.2 – 1.15
	Frequency management	RR 1.16-1.18
	Radiocommunication services	RR 1.19-1.60
	Radio stations and systems	RR 1.61- 1.115
	Operational terms	RR 1.116-1.136
	Characteristics of emissions and radio equipment	RR 1.137-1.165
	Frequency sharing	RR 1.166-1.176
	Technical terms relating to space	RR 1.177-1.191
Chapter 2	Frequency bands	RR 2.1-2.2
Chapter 3	Technical characteristics of stations	RR 3.1-3.14
Chapter 4	Assignment and use of frequencies	
	General rules for assignment and use of frequencies	RR 4.1-4.9
Chapter 5	Frequency allocations	RR 5.1-
	Regions and areas	RR 5.2-5.9
	Categories of services and allocations	RR 5.23-5.44
	Footnotes of RR	RR 5.53-5.565
	Plan of Frequency Bands Allocations in the [Country] (National Frequency Table)	National footnotes and general information
	National Frequency Table	

Example 1: Moldova



A simple table showing direct alignment with ITU and simple categorisation of usage (P=shared)

Region 1	National allocation				
Frequency band – services - footnotes	Frequency band - services	Footnotes	Usage G		
143.65 - 144 MHz AERONAUTICAL MOBILE (OR)	143.65 - 144 MHz AERONAUTICAL MOBILE (OR)	RN018, RN035			
5.210, 5.211, 5.212, 5.214					
144 - 146 MHz AMATEUR AMATEUR-SATELLITE 5.216	144 - 146 MHz AMATEUR AMATEUR-SATELLITE	RN018, RN035	NG		
146 - 148 MHz FIXED MOBILE except aeronautical mobile (R)	146 - 148 MHz FIXED MOBILE except aeronautical mobile (R)	RN018, RN018A, RN018B, RN035	G		
148 – 149.9 MHz FIXED MOBILE except aeronautical mobile (R) MOBILE-SATELITE (Earth-to-space) 5.209 5.218, 5.219, 5.221	148 - 149.9 MHz FIXED MOBILE except aeronautical mobile (R) MOBILE-SATELLITE (Earth-to-space)	5.209, 5.218, 5.219, 5.221 RN018, RN018A, RN035	G		
149.9 - 150.05 MHz RADIONAVIGATION- SATELLITE 5.224B MOBILE-SATELLITE (Earth-to-space) 5.209, 5.224A 5.220, 5.222, 5.223	149.9 - 150.05 MHz RADIONAVIGATION- SATELLITE MOBILE-SATELLITE (Earth-to-space)	5.209, 5.220, 5.222, 5.223, 5.224A, 5.224B RN018, RN018A, RN035	Р		
150.05 - 153 MHz FIXED MOBILE except aeronautical mobile RADIO ASTRONOMY 5.149	150.05 - 153 MHz FIXED MOBILE except aeronautical mobile RADIO ASTRONOMY	5.149 RN018, RN018A, RN019, RN035	Р		
153 - 154 MHz FIXED MOBILE except aeronautical mobile (R) Meteorological Aids	153 - 154 MHz FIXED MOBILE except aeronautical mobile (R) Meteorological Aids	RN018, RN018A, RN019, RN035	Р		
154 - 156.4875 MHz	154 - 156.4875 MHz	5.226,	Р		

Example 2: Bahrain



Somewhat more comprehensive providing more details of utilisation and some additional information

Frequency Allocation	ITU RR allocations for Region 1	National Allocations for Kingdom of Bahrain	Major utilization in Kingdom of Bahrain	Additional Information
1 710- 2 025 MHz	1 710-1 930 FIXED	1 710-1 930 FIXED	Public fixed and mobile	
	MOBILE 5.384A 5.388A 5.388B	MOBILE 5.384A 5.388A 5.388B	GSM1800	1710-1785 MHz paired
	5.149 5.341 5.385 5.386 5.387 5.388	5.149 5.341 5.385 5.388	IMT candidate band (1710-1885 MHz) Op1 1735-1760 / 1830- 1855 MHz, Op2 1780- 1785 / 1875-1880 MHz	with 1805- 1880 MHz 3rd mobile licence incl GSM1800 -
			GSM Guard band 1790 - 1795 MHz DECT 1880-1900 MHz IMT2000	2x15 MHz IMT2000 TDD 1900- 1920 MHz FDD 1920- 1930 / 2110-
				2120 MHz
	1 930-1 970	1 930-1 970	Public fixed and mobile	IMT2000 FDD 1930 - 1970 / 2120 - 2160 MHz
	FIXED	FIXED	IMT2000 (FDD)	2100 11112
	MOBILE 5.388A	MOBILE 5.388A	3 operators each with 2x15 MHz FDD & 5 MHz TDD	
	5.388	5.388		
1	1 970-1 980 FIXED	1 970-1 980 FIXED		IMT2000 FDD 1970 - 1980 / 2160 - 2170 MHz
	MOBILE 5.388A 5.388	MOBILE 5.388A 5.388	IMT2000 (FDD)	2110 1012
	1 980-2 010 FIXED	1 980-2 010 FIXED		
	MOBILE	MOBILE		
	MOBILE-SATELLITE (Earth-to-space) 5.351A 5.388 5.389A 5.389B 5.389F	MOBILE-SATELLITE (Earth-to-space) 5.351A 5.388 5.389A 5.389B 5.389F	IMT2000 space segment	
	2 010-2 025	2 010-2 025		
	FIXED MOBILE 5.388A 5.388B 5.388	FIXED MOBILE 5.388A 5.388B 5.388	IMT2000 (TDD)	
2 025- 2 200 MHz	2 025-2 110 SPACE OPERATION (Earth-to-space) (space-to- space)	2 025-2 110 SPACE OPERATION (Earth-to-space) (space- to-space)	Government mobile	
	EARTH EXPLORATION- SATELLITE (Earth-to- space) (space-to-space) FIXED	EARTH EXPLORATION- SATELLITE (Earth-to- space) (space-to-space) FIXED		
	MOBILE 5.391 SPACE RESEARCH (Earth-to-space) (space-to- space)	MOBILE 5.391 SPACE RESEARCH (Earth-to-space) (space- to-space)		
	5.392	5.392		

Example 3: USA



A slightly different arrangement split between Federal (Government) and non-Federal. Helpful identification of any FCC rules that apply to the band

Table of Frequency Allocations 2200-2655 MHz (UHF)					Page 3 FCC Rule Part(s)
International Table		United States Table			
Region 1 Table	Region 2 Table	Region 3 Table	Federal Table	Non-Federal Table	S Nete
EARTH EXPLORATION-S FIXED MOBILE 5.391	ace-to-Earth) (space-to-space) ATELLITE (space-to-Earth) (space ce-to-Earth) (space-to-space)	to-space)	2200-2290 SPACE OPERATION (space-to-Earth) (space-to-space) EARTH EXPLORATION-SATELLITE (space-to-Earth) (space-to-space) FIXED (line-of-sight only including aeronautical telemethy, but excluding flight testing of manned aircraft) 5.391 SPACE RESEARCH (space-to-Earth) (space-to-space)	2200-2290	
5.392			5.392 US303	US303	
2290-2300 FIXED MOBILE except aeronauti SPACE RESEARCH (dee			2290-2300 FIXED MOBILE except aeronautical mobile SPACE RESEARCH (deep space) (seace-to-Earth)	2290-2300 SPACE RESEARCH (deep space) (space-to-Earth)	
2300-2450	2300-2450		2300-2305	2300-2305	
FIXED	FIXED		G122	Amateur	Amateur Radio (97)
MOBILE 5.384A MOBILE 5.384A Amateur RADIOLOCATION Radiolocation Amateur		2305-2310 US97 G122	2305-2310 FIXED NOBILE except aeronautical mobile RADIOLOCATION Amateur LIS97	Wireless Communications (27 Amateur Radio (97)	
			2310-2320 Fixed Mobile US339 Radiolocation G2	2310-2320 FIXED MOBILE US339 BROADCASTING-SATELLITE RADIOLOCATION	Wireless Communications (27 Aviation (87)
			US97 US327 2320-2345	5.396 US97 US327 2320-2345	6
			Fixed Radiolocation G2	BROADCASTING-SATELLITE	Satellite Communications (25
			US327	5.396 US327	
			2345-2360 Fixeal Nobile US339 Radiolocation G2	2345-2360 FIXED MOBILE US339 BROADCASTING-SATELLITE RADIOLOCATION	Wireless Communications (27 Aviation (87)
			US327	5.396 US327	0
			2360-2390 MOBILE US276 RADIOLOCATION G2 G120 Fixed	2360-2390 MOBILE US276	Aviation (87) Personal Radio (95)
			US101	US101	
			2390-2395 MOBILE US276	2390-2395 AMATEUR MOBILE US276	Aviation (87) Personal Radio (95)
5,150 5,282 5,395	5.150 5.282 5.393 5.394		US101	US101	Amateur Radio (97)

5.15

Example 3: Graphical Representation



Useful for public consumption and a quick overview of the use of the radio spectrum



Example 4: PNG

regions allocations

> All three ITU-R

information

developing the NTFA

Global Usage

scenarios



41.015-75.2 MHz

			Allocation to ser	vices	
Regi	on 1	Region 2	Region 3	Papua New Guinea	Usage
41.015-42	FIXED MOBILE		•	41.015-44 FIXED MOBILE	Conventional fixed stations and PMR.
	5.160 5.16	1 5.161A			
42-42.5 FIXED MOBILE Radiolocation 5	5.161A	42-42.5 FIXED MOBILE		42-42.5 FIXED MOBILE	Conventional fixed stations and PMR.
5.160 5.161B		5.161			
42. 5-44	FIXED MOBILE			42.5-44 FIXED MOBILE	Conventional fixed stations and PMR.
	5.160 5.16	1 5.161A			
44-47	FIXED MOBILE 5.162 5.16	24		44-47 FIXED MOBILE 5.162	Conventional fixed stations and PMR. 46 MHz Cordless Telephone in accordance with the TR421.
47-68 BROADCASTIN	łG	47-50 FIXED MOBILE	47-50 FIXED MOBILE BROADCASTING 5.162A	47-50 FIXED MOBILE BROADCASTING	Conventional fixed stations and PMR. 46 MHz Cordless Telephone in accordance with the TR421.
		50-54 AMATEUR 5.162A 5.10	36 5.167 5.168 5.170	50-54 AMATEUR 5.166 5.167 5.168	
5 1624 5 163	5 164 5 165	54-68 BROADCASTING Fixed Mobile	54-68 FIXED MOBILE BROADCASTING	54-68 FIXED MOBILE	Conventional fixed stations and PMR.





European Frequency Information System (EFIS)



- The ERO (part of CEPT) is developing an on-line searchable NTFA covering the whole of the CEPT region
 - <u>http://www.efis.dk</u>
- EFIS is the tool to fulfil EC Decision 2007/344/EC on the harmonised availability of information regarding spectrum use in Europe and the ECC Decision ECC/DEC/(01)03

> At the time of writing it was still under development

- Gaining all the necessary information from all of the NRAs in the right format is a massive task
- Nevertheless, there is much useful information available on the site include relevant reports and the ability to search individual country allocations

Other on-line systems - US



The US spectrum dashboard is an initiative to make much more information publicly available and searchable







Like other NRAs Ofcom publish a NTFA. Here we look into a part of it in detail to understand some of the issues



UNITED KINGDOM FREQUENCY ALLOCATION TABLE

2013

Issue No. 17

Including The International Telecommunication Union Table of Frequency Allocations contained in the current Radio Regulations

Issued by the National Frequency Planning Group on behalf of the Committee on UK Spectrum Strategy

Looking at one entry in detail



Allocation to United Kingdom Services	Comments
470 – 790 MHz BROADCASTING Mobile 5.149 5.296 5.306 5.312A UK1, 8, 10, 11, 27, 72, 189, 214, 222, EU1	 UK27 Services for Programme Making and Special Events are authorised to use some frequencies in this band by agreement with Ofcom. See Annex H. UK72 Subject to prior agreement between Ofcom and the MoD, limited access is permitted to the band 606-790 MHz for testing and development of military equipment for emergency operation. Such access shall not in any way interfere with or restrict the planning or operation of television broadcasting, OB services, or any transmissions for testing and development associated with television services. UK189 The band 470-790 MHz is the subject of Ofcom's UHF Strategy Review which covers the future use of this spectrum and the next WRC-15 decision on mobile use of the 700MHz Band. In the meantime, the UK Table reflects the international allocations as modified by WRC-12. UK214 The bands 542-550 MHz in the Cardiff area and 758-766 MHz in the Manchester area have been awarded by Ofcom by auction. See general note 5.2, c). UK222 The Geneva 2006 agreement (GE06) applies to the bands 174 – 230 MHz and 470 – 862 MHz. EU1 Commission Decisions 2006/771/EC, 2008/432/EC, 2009/381/EC, 2010/368/EU and 2011/829/EU (harmonised use of spectrum for short range devices (SRDs)) applies.

Understanding the entry (1)



- This is a particularly interesting band because there are many uses and much discussion of its future use
- Its primary allocation is broadcasting and the UK conforms to this with national TV broadcasting throughout the band
- Like many regulators, Ofcom permits the use of PMSE (predominantly wireless microphones) throughout the band, working around the TV broadcasts
 - Ofcom provide an Annex setting out all the PMSE allocations, part of this is shown on the next slide

Annex H (part)



ANNEX H

Details all PMSE usage

- Only part of the table shown here for brevity
- It is referenced via a footnote (UK27)

SPECTRUM AVAILABLE FOR USE IN PROGRAMME MAKING AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Footnote UK 27

Frequency	Comments & typical use
47·55 - 48·8 MHz	Audio.
52·0 -52·95 MHz	Audio.
53·75 - 55·75 MHz	Audio.
60·75 - 62·75 MHz	Audio.
67·75 - 67·8375 MHz	Audio.
69·15625 - 69·18125 MHz	Audio.
74·68125 - 74·71875 MHz	Audio.
75·2625 - 75·3 MHz	Audio, airborne use permitted, restrictions apply.
76·80625 - 76·84375 MHz	Audio.
78·18375 - 78·25875 MHz	Audio.
82·65625 - 82·68125 MHz	Audio.
86·66875 - 86·68125 MHz	Audio, geographical restrictions apply.
86·80625 - 86·84375 MHz	Audio, airborne use permitted, restrictions apply.
139·54375 - 139·55625 MHz	Audio, geographic restrictions apply.
139·56875 - 139·58125 MHz	Audio, geographic restrictions apply.
139·64375 - 139·66875 MHz	Audio, geographic restrictions apply.
140·9875 - 141·4875 MHz	Audio, geographic restrictions apply. Airborne use permitted, restrictions apply.

Understanding the entry (2)



- There is some shared use with the military. The table is clear that this military use is secondary and must not cause any interference to the primary use
- The third note is particularly interesting. Ofcom has noted that part of the band (above 700MHz) may be changed to mobile status at the next WRC and that Ofcom is conducting studies and consultation on this effectively they are signposting a possible major change to the band in the future
- The fourth note (UK214) is informative. Most of the broadcasting channels are assigned by legislation but Ofcom have noted that two regional TV channels have recently been assigned via auction and references some general principles – provided on the next slide
- The remaining notes reference relevant documents and standards that apply to the band such as the Geneva frequency planning that determined the frequencies for broadcasting across Europe

Example: UK general footnotes (1)



> The generic footnotes appearing in the UK NTFA are listed below:

- UK1 Except by special agreement having the approval of the NFPG this frequency band, or the allocation to this radio service, is reserved exclusively for CIVIL use in accordance with 'Allocation to Services'
- UK2 Except by special agreement having the approval of the NFPG this frequency band, or the allocation to this radio service, is reserved exclusively for MILITARY use in accordance with the 'Allocation to Services'
- UK3 Responsibility for assigning frequencies in this band in accordance with the Allocation to Services rests with Ofcom and the Scottish Government for emergency services
- UK4 Responsibility for assigning frequencies in this band in accordance with the Allocation to Services is as follows ...
- UK5 Responsibility for assigning frequencies to this service in accordance with the Allocation to Services is as follows...
- UK6 Industrial, scientific and medical (ISM) applications are designated for use in this band
- UK7 The conditions of use by the Amateur and/or Amateur-Satellite services in this band are contained in Annex F
- UK8 Details the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and Agreements entered into by Ofcom relating to cross-border radio frequency coordination and the management of interference are contained at Annex K

Example: UK General Footnotes (2)



- UK9 The Ministry of Defence requires at times to activate stations of the land mobile service, employing low power for voice communications, in the range 1.5-30.0 MHz. Temporary assignments will be negotiated directly with Ofcom and the Departments concerned or likely to be affected. In certain bands however this general but qualified agreement to MILITARY out-of-band usage cannot be permitted. These bands are annotated UK9
- UK10 Specific details of frequency bands, observatories and protective measures applicable to the radio astronomy service are contained in Annex D
- UK11 Specific details of frequency bands available for low power devices exempt from licensing are contained in Annex B. Please note that in addition to this footnote Ultra wide-band (UWB) equipment is also authorised to transmit in most frequency bands, as mandated by European Commission Decisions 2007/131/EC and 2009/343/EC. Due to the wide-band nature of the devices they permitted to operate across most frequency bands and for this reason we have not included them in the footnotes
- UK12 Specific details of frequencies for Distress and Safety, Search and Rescue and Emergencies are contained in Annex G

Summary



- The NTFA is a core element of the national use of radio spectrum and will be one of the most important documents for the NRA
- Most countries adopt a similar format, using the RRs as a template and then showing the national use alongside this
- It can be helpful to provide informative notes, cross-references and footnotes so that most of the activities of the NRA can be "hung from" the NTFA
- Developing the NTFA is a large undertaking and once produced it will need regular updates
- Most NRAs now make the NTFA available on-line both as a published document and sometimes as a searchable database

ITU is finalizing guidelines on preparation of National Frequency Allocation Table



Committed to Thank U connecting the WORLD"

Major ITU SM Events in 2016

ITU Study Group Meetings ITU-D (Res. 9) and ITU-R SG1 ITU COE training workshop on Spectrum Management and Monitoring Chengdu, China 16 – 21 May 2016

Economic Aspects of Spectrum Management Iran, Q3/4 2016 2nd Asia Pacific Spectrum Management Conference Bangkok, Thailand 25-29 April 2016

Your active participation in and contribution to these events is most welcome!