



Introduction

Portuguese Frequency
Allocation Table

1. Introduction

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The *National Frequency Allocation Table* contains the detailed division of the radio spectrum, specifying for each frequency band the allocated radiocommunications services. This table is based on agreements established on a national and international basis.

The responsibility for the national management of the spectrum is entrusted by law to the Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal (ICP), the authority that controls the national communications, under the auspices of the Ministry of Equipment, Planning and Territory Administration. The ICP is responsible for the national allocation of frequency bands to services and the assignment of frequencies to radio stations, as well as for the supervision of the use thereof. This function covers all public and private bodies, whether they are telecommunications operators or service providers, broadcasters or private users of radio networks.

With the aim to fulfil military and associated purposes, the management of parts of the radio spectrum has been delegated to the Estado-Maior-General das Forças Armadas (EMGFA).

The management of the radio spectrum requires the accomplishment of a series of technical and administrative procedures, the purpose of which is to ensure the operation of radio stations by the various radiocommunications services and avoiding interference problems.

Given the growth of services that use the radio spectrum, it is currently almost impossible to grant exclusive frequency bands to a single radiocommunications service. The various allocations are therefore made on a shared basis, in terms of time, space or frequency, with the purpose of improving the use of spectrum. It is consequently vital to coordinate the use of radio frequencies by different services on a world-wide basis, after its national and international planning; the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the Conference of European Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) play a very active role on these activities.

The ITU is an intergovernmental organisation composed by 184 Member States and is responsible for the regulation, standardisation and development of telecommunications of all kinds, including broadcasting and computer communications. It is also the United Nations specialised agency for telecommunications. The international planning of the frequency allocations is based on agreements between States, under the guidance of the Radiocommunications Sector of the ITU.

The CEPT leads the international planning on an European basis. Portugal is one of the 43 Members of this Organisation and participates in many activities that are under development on its working groups, in areas such as Spectrum Engineering, Frequency Management, Radio Regulatory and European Preparation for ITU Conferences. From a spectrum management's point of view, many actions have been undertaken to harmonise on an European basis the spectrum usage: the implementation of recommendations and decisions prepared by this Organisation are examples of those actions.

The Radio Regulations (RR), a document published by the ITU and resulting from the agreements made between its Members, is an international treaty that has to be respected by the 184 Members of the Organisation. This document contains the rules of spectrum usage as well as associated rights and obligations. The *National Frequency Allocation Table* is derived from this treaty, specifically from its Article S5. The Article S5 of the RR contains the Frequency Allocation Table for the three regions of the world and specifies the existing and planned services for each frequency band.



The Frequency Allocation Table contained in Article S5, as well as the remaining Articles, Appendices, Resolutions and Recommendations of the RR, may only be modified by World Radiocommunications Conferences (WRCs), which take place every two or three years.

As a consequence to the modifications made by the World Radiocommunications Conferences to the RR, as well as to the analysis of the market evolution on a national and European-wide basis, the *National Frequency Allocation Table* is regularly updated.

The *National Frequency Allocation Table* does also contain the services and systems in use in Portugal as well as the main ones planned for the future, notwithstanding future decisions that may be taken through deliberation by the ICP board.

The use of the spectrum, even if in line with the current *National Frequency Allocation Table*, must have prior approval of the ICP.