

UK Interface Requirement 2039

**For hand-held / transportable radiotelephone equipment
with DSC Distress Alerting Capability in the maritime
mobile service operating in the VHF bands
(for non-SOLAS applications only)**

Publication date: Jun 2005
Version: 1.1
98/34/EC Notification number: 2001/115/UK

Contents

Section		Page
1	References	3
2	Foreword	4
3	Minimum equipment requirements for operation within the UK	5
4	Additional performance parameters	8
5	Contact details	9
6	Document history	10

Section 1

References

- 1.1 EN 301 178-1 – European Norm - Electromagnetic compatibility and Radio spectrum Matters (ERM); Technical characteristics and methods of measurement for hand-held / transportable Very High Frequency (VHF) radiotelephone equipment for the maritime mobile service operating in the VHF bands (for non-GMDSS applications only).
- 1.2 EN 301 025-1 – European Norm – Electromagnetic compatibility and Radio spectrum Matters (ERM); Technical characteristics and methods for measurements for VHF radiotelephone equipment for general communications and associated equipment for Class “D” Digital Selective Calling (DSC).
- 1.3 Recommendation ITU-R M.493 – Digital Selective Calling System for use in the Maritime Mobile service.
- 1.4 Of 18 – Ofcom Coastal Station Radio Information booklet.

Section 2

Foreword

- 2.1 The Radio Equipment and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment Directive 99/5/EC (R&TTE Directive) was implemented in the United Kingdom (UK) on the 8 April 2000 by The Radio Equipment and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment Regulations 2000, Statutory Instrument 2000 No. 730. In accordance with Articles 4.1 and 7.2 of Directive 1999/5/EC, this UK Interface Requirement contains the requirements for the licensing and use of hand-held / transportable radiotelephone equipment with DSC Distress Alerting Capability for the maritime mobile service operating in the VHF bands (for non-SOLAS 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 1999/5/EC.
- 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 hand-held / transportable radiotelephone equipment with DSC Distress Alerting Capability for the maritime mobile service operating in the VHF bands.
- 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 hand-held / transportable radiotelephone equipment with DSC Distress Alerting Capability for the maritime mobile service operating in the VHF bands.
- 2.6 All UK Radio Interface Requirements notified under Directive 1998/34/EC 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 hand-held / transportable radiotelephone equipment with DSC Distress Alerting Capability for the maritime mobile service operating in the VHF bands (for non-SOLAS applications only). It does not prescribe technical interpretation of the 'essential requirements' of Directive 1999/5/EC.
- 3.3 This UK Radio Interface Requirement therefore stipulates the necessary equipment parameters for the licensing of hand-held / transportable radiotelephone equipment with DSC Distress Alerting Capability for the maritime mobile service operating in the VHF bands (for non-SOLAS 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 1999/5/EC constitute the minimum equipment requirements for hand-held / transportable radiotelephone equipment with DSC Distress Alerting Capability for the maritime mobile service operating in the VHF bands (for non-SOLAS 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 maritime mobile 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 maritime mobile service spectrum by making clear the assumptions that are made in planning the use of the maritime mobile 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 1999/5/EC 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.
- 3.6 This equipment shall contain a unique Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number which will be issued by Ofcom from a block of MMSI numbers reserved for hand-held / transportable DSC equipment. These are currently of the form 2359XXXX, where X is any digit from 0 to 9. The use of any other MMSI number with this equipment is not permitted. The MMSI shall be programmed by the supplier and it shall not be possible to alter the MMSI using operator controls. It shall not be possible to transmit a DSC alert until the MMSI has been programmed into the equipment. The MMSI shall be legibly and indelibly displayed in a prominent position on the front of the case.

Table 3.1: Minimum equipment requirements for hand-held / transportable radiotelephone equipment with DSC Distress Alerting Capability in the maritime mobile service operating in the VHF bands (for non-SOLAS applications only)

1	Frequency band (or bands)	156 MHz to 163 MHz
2	Radio service	Maritime mobile service
3	Application	Ship radio licence
4	Channelling modulation	25 kHz, G3E, G2B (DSC)
5	Maximum transmit power limit	6W
6	Channel occupation rules	N/A
7	Duplex type/separation	N/A
8	Licensing Regime	Ship radio licence
9	Additional essential requirements	<p>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, Appxs 13-16, and Appx 18. Channel 70 shall not be available to the user for voice communications. Transmission on channel 70 shall only be activated by operation of the distress alert function. National channels (CSR UK) 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.</p> <p>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 is dependent on a related Coastal Station Radio Licence.</p>

10	Frequency planning assumptions	It is assumed that the relevant equipment parameters are in accordance with Recommendation ITU-R M 493; if the transmission of a DSC distress call is not automatically repeated, it is not essential for the equipment to be capable of receiving a DSC acknowledgement (Ref. Recommendation ITU-R M. 493 Annex 1 sub clause 1.8). The default distress category shall be “undesigned”.
11	Reference	EN 301 178-1, EN 301 025-1, Recommendation ITU-R M.493 and OF 18
12	Remarks	N/A
13	Notification Number	2001/115/UK

Section 4

Additional performance parameters

(informative)

ETSI EN 301 025-2 Electromagnetic compatibility and Radio spectrum Matters (ERM); VHF radiotelephone equipment for general communications and associated equipment for Class "D" Digital Selective Calling (DSC);Part 2: Harmonized EN under article 3.2 of the R&TTE Directive.

ETSI EN 301 025-3 Electromagnetic compatibility and Radio spectrum Matters (ERM); VHF radiotelephone equipment for general communications and associated equipment for Class "D" Digital Selective Calling (DSC);Part 3: Harmonized EN under article 3.3 (e) of the R&TTE Directive.

Equipment that was manufactured or placed on the market after 4 September 2004 must fully comply with the EU Commission Decision 2004/71/EC. The present Interface Requirement document will therefore not be valid for such equipment.

Section 5

Contact details

Ofcom, Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HA

- Technical enquiries to:-
- Tel: 020 7981 3087
- Fax: 020 7981 3061
- Email: maat@ofcom.org.uk
- Website: <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radiocomms/>

Section 6

Document history

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	05 Jun 2001	Published
2.0	21 Apr 2005	Rebranded to Ofcom format