



**UK Radio 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)**

(Version 1.0)

98/34/EC Notification Number: 2001/115/UK

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References

EN 301 178-1 V1.1.2 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).

EN 301 025-1 V1.1.2 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)

RA 290 Radiocommunications Agency Coastal Station Radio Information sheet

Note: These references are included for information purposes only. Compliance with these referenced standards is not mandatory.

1. Foreword

- 1.1 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 Radio 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).
- 1.2 Nothing in this UK Radio Interface Requirement shall preclude the need for equipment to comply with Directive 1999/5/EC.
- 1.3 It is required by the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 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 the Secretary of State. 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 Radio Interface Requirement for the stated equipment types and for the stated frequency bands.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 All UK Radio Interface Requirements notified under Directive 98/34/EC will be published and will be made available free of charge from the RA Information and Library Service and/or the RA web-site. The addresses for both the Library and the web-site are given on the back cover of this document.
- 1.7 Further information on this UK Radio Interface Requirement can be obtained from the technical enquiry contact given on the back of this document

2. **Minimum Equipment Requirements for Operation within the UK**

- 2.1 The minimum radio requirements in this document are made for reasons related to the effective and appropriate use of the radio spectrum, in particular maximising spectrum utilisation.
- 2.2 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 a technical interpretation of the 'essential requirements' of Directive 1999/5/EC.
- 2.3 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 2.1 contains the relevant equipment parameters. These together with the 'essential requirements' detailed in Article 3.2 of the 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 within the UK.
- 2.4 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 DSC Distress Alerting and with other radiocommunications services whilst promoting enterprise, innovation and competition.
- 2.5 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 DSC Distress Alerting by making clear the assumptions that are made in planning the use of the VHF radiotelephone equipment for general communications and associated equipment for DSC Distress Alerting 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 de-facto national product requirement.
- 2.6 This equipment shall contain a unique Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number which will be issued by the RA from a block of MMSI numbers reserved for hand-held / transportable DSC equipment. These are currently of the form 2359XXXXX, 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.
- 2.7 Use of this equipment is currently limited to within UK territorial waters only.

Table 2.1: Minimum Equipment Requirements

Frequency Range	Licence Class & Radio Service	Additional requirements
156MHz to 163MHz	Ship Radio Licence. (Hand-held /Transportable) Maritime Mobile Service.	<p>The Channel Plan and parameters shall be in accordance with the relevant sections of the ITU Radio Regulations Articles S5, S19, S30-S33, S50-S54, S57-S58, Appxs S13-S16, and Appx S18 and where appropriate, the relevant sections of Recommendation ITU-R M 493; however, 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”.</p> <p>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 RA 290. Authorisation on national channels (RA290) 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>

Channel Bandwidth	Class of emission	Maximum transmitter power	Additional requirements
25kHz	G3E G2B (DSC)	6W	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 (RA 290) is dependent on a related Coastal Station Radio Licence.

Annex A

Additional Performance Parameters (Informative)

A1 Reference specification EN301 178-1 V1.1.2 contains additional performance parameters and limits that the Radiocommunications Agency assume are fulfilled for hand-held / transportable radiotelephone equipment for the maritime mobile service operating in the VHF bands (for non-GMDSS applications only) when planning and managing the radio spectrum in the UK.

A2 Reference specification EN301 025-1 V1.1.2 contains additional parameters and limits that the Radiocommunications Agency assume are fulfilled with respect to the operation of the DSC Distress key. Specifically the following clauses are applicable:

4.5.3 with the following exceptions:

The category of Distress shall default to “Undesignated” and the facility to automatically repeat transmission of the call shall be inhibited if there is no capability for the equipment to receive a DSC acknowledgement.

5.4 with the exception of the need to store a group MMSI.

5.5 with no requirement for manual entry of geographical position information, but with an additional requirement for the position information stored within the unit to be automatically discarded when the equipment is turned off.

8.12, 8.13, 8.14 and 8.15 (distress category message only).

Document history

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	Aug 01	

Radiocommunications Agency

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There is no current published version of this Interface Regulation.