

FREQUENCIES FOR THE OPERATION OF SONOBUOYS

(Reference: Footnote UK40 and UK48)

1. After a series of trials held in 1961, a report on the operation of sonobuoys in the frequency band 162-174 MHz was submitted by a Working Party to the (then) Cabinet Frequency Committee (CFC). The CFC accepted the report and measures to minimise interference to sonobuoys in that frequency band have since been implemented by the Department of Trade and Industry (Radiocommunications Agency).
2. At a meeting held on 12 February 1973¹ the National Frequency Planning Group agreed that the frequency allocation for sonobuoy operations could be extended to 136-174 MHz, subject to the following conditions:
 - a) During normal peacetime exercises, sonobuoys operating below 162 MHz would not be deployed within 50 miles of the United Kingdom coast.
 - b) Sonobuoys would not normally be used within a radius of 5 nautical miles of any oil rig or platform.
 - c) Should the operation of sonobuoys cause harmful interference to radio services operating in accordance with the UK Frequency Allocation Table, geographical or frequency assignment restrictions would be imposed on the sonobuoy operations.
3. It is to be noted that in accordance with Article 8 of the ITU Radio Regulations and Resolution 408 of WARC (MOB-87) the National Frequency Planning group agreed to the Civil Aviation Authority proposal² to allocate 136-137 MHz to the Aeronautical Mobile (R) service as an extension of the existing band 117.975-136 MHz.
4. The assignments agreed for sonobuoys operations in the band 136-174 MHz are listed in the National Frequency Register.

¹ T(F)(N)(73) 1st Meeting

² T(N)(89)1