

Summary of proposed changes to the Digital Radio Technical Code

Existing document	Proposed new document
Paragraph 2.1: “Tests will need to be carried out by or on behalf of the licensee before it is permitted to transmit to air from any given transmitter. Ofcom will require satisfactory evidence of compliance with this specification, and the particular conditions of the licence, at least four weeks before such permission might be expected to be granted (assuming compliance is achieved). The tests and associated evidence should provide a reasonable confidence level that transmissions will remain compliant after commissioning.”	Paragraph 2.1: “Tests will need to be carried out by or on behalf of the licensee before it is permitted to transmit to air from any given transmitter. The licensee must hold a suitable Wireless Telegraphy Act licence for any on-air tests to be carried out. The test results and associated evidence of compliance with licence conditions must be provided to Ofcom within five working days of the transmitter coming on-air, and should provide a reasonable confidence level that transmissions will remain compliant after commissioning.”
-	New sub-heading on page 5: “Electromagnetic fields”
-	New paragraph 2.10: “All transmitter equipment operating at powers above 10 watts EIRP (effective isotropic radiated power) must – as a condition of the service’s Wireless Telegraphy Act licence – comply with international guidelines on electromagnetic field (EMF) emissions for the protection of the general public. These guidelines have been issued by ICNIRP (the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection). More guidance on EMF requirements is available on the Ofcom website at https://www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-your-licence/emf .”
-	New sub-heading: “Technical resilience”
-	New paragraph 2.11: “Radio multiplex licensees are required as a condition of their licences to transmit their services from the transmitter sites set out in their Broadcasting Act and Wireless Telegraphy Act licences, and to ensure that that any periods of technical failure should not be unreasonably protracted. Licensees should therefore consider the technical resilience of their service, and to have in place service continuity plans that are proportionate to the service they are providing.”