



Commission for
Communications Regulation

Guidelines

Guidelines to Applicants Wireless Public Address System Licences

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1 Introduction

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) has launched a licensing process for Wireless Public Address System (WPAS) Licences. The overall objective of the process is to permit wireless public address systems to meet the needs of religious and other community organisations. This is intended to provide a public address system to facilitate the social inclusion of and meet the needs of the housebound be they sick, disabled and/or elderly, using wireless technology.

2 The Statutory Regulations

A Wireless Telegraphy (WT) Licence is required under Section 3 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1926 to keep and operate apparatus for wireless telegraphy.

Following consultation with the Broadcasting Commission of Ireland (BCI), ComReg has established that the proposed service is not a broadcasting service and does not therefore fall under the BCI regulatory regime. This is reflected in four key characteristics which define wireless public address systems and place it outside the broadcasting space. These characteristics are:

- Spectrum will be allocated on a non-exclusive and non-interfering basis in a frequency band not used by BCI Sound Broadcasting Contractors.
- The system is to be used for unabridged wireless retransmission of audio from a public address system that is associated with a public event.
- The service will only be available on a non commercial basis (for local community users).
- The service will not be available for reception on standard domestic broadcast receivers.

3 The WPAS Licensing Scheme

The WPAS licensing scheme is an initiative by ComReg to enable licence holders to provide a wireless retransmission of audio from their public address system.

It is the responsibility of the WPAS licensee to ensure that all equipment used complies with the technical conditions of the WPAS licence and is R&TTE compliant.

Each WAPS licence will comprise a single frequency channel.

3.1 Frequency Spectrum for WPAS licensing

Frequency spectrum from the following band will be made available for WPAS licensing:

- HF (27.60-27.99MHz)

In this band, two banks of 40 channels¹ of bandwidth 10 kHz will be made available. Each channel comprises of a single frequency.

Licensees, or suppliers applying on behalf of the licensee, will be responsible for their own selection of a channel from the list as in Appendix 1. This requested channel must be noted on the licence application.

Changes in the frequency spectrum available to WPAS services may arise for a number of reasons, including:

- Changes in spectrum allocations in accordance with the requirements of international treaties or regionally negotiated agreements;
- Changes necessitated by EU legislation;
- Changes in order to meet national requirements;

In the interests of the efficient use of the radio spectrum it is the policy of ComReg to review the use of the spectrum on an ongoing basis in order to reflect the changes outlined above and changes in the market place. ComReg would endeavour to provide as much notice as possible in the event that any such changes were required.

¹ The two banks of 40 channels start on different channel offset frequencies.

3.2 Equipment Compliance

In common with other licensed radio services, all radio equipment used to deliver WPAS services must comply with the Radio and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment Directive 1999/5/EC (the R&TTE Directive)¹ which was enacted into Irish law on 5 June 2001 by Statutory Instrument 240 of 2001. Harmonised standards under the R&TTE Directive, published by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and CENELEC, can be used to demonstrate compliance to the essential requirements of the R&TTE Directive². Information on the R&TTE Directive may be found in ComReg documents 00/61 and 00/62R – please note that these documents are subject to revision and updates³.

For information purposes, a list of the most common standards for radio systems that comply with R&TTE directive is detailed below. Equipment using standards other than those listed below is also acceptable once this equipment is compliant with the R&TTE directive:

- EN 300 113⁴ (Radio equipment intended for the transmission of data (and/or speech) using constant or non-constant envelope modulation and having an antenna connector)
- EN 300 135⁴ (Angle modulated CB radio equipment {CEPT PR 27 Radio Equipment})
- EN 300 433⁴ (Double Side Band {DSB} and /or Single Side Band {SSB} amplitude modulated CB radio equipment)

¹ OJEC reference L 91, 7.4.1999, p.10 (available from http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/search/search_oj.html)

² A list of the harmonised standards under the R&TTE Directive is maintained at

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/newapproach/standardization/harmstds/reflist/radiotte.html>

³ Further information on the R&TTE Directive can be found at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/rtte/>

⁴ Carrier frequencies and channels numbers are different to the standard

4 The Application Process

4.1 Terms for submission of Application

All applications for a WPAS licence must be made on the appropriate application form (ComReg 05/xxa).

Only applications which fulfil the following minimum requirements shall be considered:

1. The licence application form must be completed correctly and in accordance with the guidelines attached to the application form and contained in this document;
2. Each application must be accompanied by a fee of €XXX for each 10 KHz channel requested.
3. Applications shall be delivered to the following address:

**The Commission for Communications Regulation
Licensing Section (Ref: WPAS Licensing Scheme)
1 Dockland Central
Guild Street
Dublin 1
D01 EX40
Ireland**

4.2 Application conditions

By participating in this process, the applicant undertakes to accept the terms of this application document and will abide by the rules of the process. All expenses incurred by applicants or potential applicants shall be borne by themselves exclusively.

Although every care has been taken in preparing this document and conducting this process, no representation, warranty or undertaking, expressed or implied, in respect of any error or misstatement is or will be made or given, and no responsibility or liability will be accepted by ComReg or by any of its officers, employees, servants, agents or advisers as to the accuracy or completeness of this document or any other written or oral information made available to any interested party or its advisers concerning this document and any liability howsoever arising (including in respect of this licensing process) is expressly disclaimed. No information contained in this document shall form the basis for any warranty or representation by or term of any contract with ComReg.

ComReg makes no representations and warranties in respect of the viability of the market or accuracy of the contents of this application form so that applicants and potential applicants are responsible for their own verification and due diligence. The applicant agrees by accepting any licence which it may be offered that the Licensee is responsible for all costs, liabilities and losses

derived from the operation or non-operation of the licence or licensed service for whatever cause.

ComReg reserves the right to request an applicant to submit further material and documents in addition to the information already provided within such time and within such format as ComReg may stipulate.

ComReg reserves the right to announce the names and details of successful applicants. In this regard, ComReg is considering developing a webpage which will incorporate contact details for the licensees and their licence details.

5 Licence Information

A licence granted under the WPAS Regulations allows the licensee to keep and operate radio apparatus in accordance with these regulations.

ComReg reserves the right not to award licences.

5.1 Licence Fees and Duration

Licence fees, applicable to all WPAS licences under this scheme are €XXX per 10 kHz channel, for a XX year licence. It is not envisaged that licences will be granted for shorter periods.

The fee is payable in full on application.

Each 10 kHz channel will be individually licensed.

A Licence shall (unless it has been revoked) be in force for a maximum period of XX years from the date on which it comes into operation and shall then expire.

5.2 Amendments to Licences

In exceptional circumstances and where appropriate, ComReg may need to make modifications to existing licences.

5.3 Revocation of a Licence

ComReg may suspend or revoke a licence where there is serious or repeated non-compliance by the licensee with the conditions of the licence.

5.4 Cancellation of a Licence

A Licence may be cancelled at the written request of the licensee. There shall be no entitlement to any refund of licence fees in the event of such cancellation.

5.5 Non-Ionising Radiation

The licensee shall ensure that non-ionising radiation emissions from the TPBR apparatus operated by the licensee and from any structure occupied by the TPBR apparatus are within the limits specified in the guidelines published by the International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (“*ICNIRP*”) and that these comply with any radiation emission standards adopted and published by ICNIRP or its successors from time to time, any radiation emission standards of the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standards and any other radiation emission standards specified by law.

5.6 Harmful Interference to other licensed users

ComReg's intention is that frequencies identified for WPAS services are available for local use, subject to the technical conditions outlined in section 5.7 below.

Licensees are required to adhere to the guidelines in ETSI Technical Report ETR 053, "Radio Site Engineering for Radio Equipment and Systems in the Mobile Service", to minimise the risk of interference between co-sited/adjacent radio systems.

5.7 Technical Conditions

The following maximum effective Radiated Power (ERP) limits will apply to WPAS systems:

- Base Station equipment using Amplitude Modulation (AM): 1 watt (0dBW)
- Base Station equipment using Frequency Modulation (FM): 4 watts (6dBW)
- Antennas must be non directional and antenna gain must not exceed 3dBd
- Antenna polarisation must be vertical
- Antenna height must not exceed 10 metres above local ground level

5.8 Commissioning/Site Inspections

ComReg reserves the right to inspect a WPAS station at any time to ensure that the system is configured and operating in accordance with the licence conditions. In addition, ComReg may attend the commissioning of base stations and may carry out measurements on the system at that time.

5.9 Licence Frequency

A licence does not confer any right of ownership of the frequency spectrum. It allows the assigned frequency channel to be used during the term of the licence in accordance with the conditions of the licence.

6 Appendix 1

Channel Bank 1		Channel Bank 2	
Channel	Frequency	Channel	Frequency
LW01	27.60125	UW01	27.60500
LW02	27.61125	UW02	27.61500
LW03	27.62125	UW03	27.62500
LW04	27.63125	UW04	27.63500
LW05	27.64125	UW05	27.64500
LW06	27.65125	UW06	27.65500
LW07	27.66125	UW07	27.66500
LW08	27.67125	UW08	27.67500
LW09	27.68125	UW09	27.68500
LW10	27.69125	UW10	27.69500
LW11	27.70125	UW11	27.70500
LW12	27.71125	UW12	27.71500
LW13	27.72125	UW13	27.72500
LW14	27.73125	UW14	27.73500
LW15	27.74125	UW15	27.74500
LW16	27.75125	UW16	27.75500
LW17	27.76125	UW17	27.76500
LW18	27.77125	UW18	27.77500
LW19	27.78125	UW19	27.78500
LW20	27.79125	UW20	27.79500
LW21	27.80125	UW21	27.80500
LW22	27.81125	UW22	27.81500
LW23	27.82125	UW23	27.82500
LW24	27.83125	UW24	27.83500
LW25	27.84125	UW25	27.84500
LW26	27.85125	UW26	27.85500
LW27	27.86125	UW27	27.86500
LW28	27.87125	UW28	27.87500
LW29	27.88125	UW29	27.88500
LW30	27.89125	UW30	27.89500
LW31	27.90125	UW31	27.90500
LW32	27.91125	UW32	27.91500
LW33	27.92125	UW33	27.92500
LW34	27.93125	UW34	27.93500
LW35	27.94125	UW35	27.94500
LW36	27.95125	UW36	27.95500
LW37	27.96125	UW37	27.96500
LW38	27.97125	UW38	27.97500
LW39	27.98125	UW39	27.98500
LW40	27.99125	UW40	27.99500