

TECHNICAL CONDITIONS

Technical Conditions for the Operation of Digital Programme Services Distribution Systems

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TECHNICAL CONDITIONS RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF DIGITAL

PROGRAMME SERVICES DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS IN THE FREQUENCY BAND 2524 TO 2668 MHz

1 Purpose

This document specifies the general conditions attached to a licence for digital programme retransmission systems issued by the Commission for Communications Regulation under the Wireless Telegraphy (Multipoint Microwave Distribution System) Regulations, 2003 (S.I. No. 529 of 2003)

2 Summary Information.

These conditions detail the characteristics of the equipment that need to be considered for the purposes of frequency spectrum management, safety and the provision of a satisfactory service to the subscriber, and do not include detailed equipment specifications.

These conditions also detail those characteristics relevant for ensuring compatibility with other authorised users of the radio frequency spectrum.

The parameters specified in this document are mainly based on those given in ETSI and CENELEC documents: EN 300 749, TS 101 197-1 and EN 50221.

For issues not referred to by this document the licensee shall comply with standards set out in any relevant ETSI, IEC or CENELEC standard relating to DVB.

The Commission for Communications Regulation does not require evidence of type approval of equipment. Instead a procedure of system audits will apply.

The conditions specified in this document may be revised and/or added to from time to time.

Nothing contained in these conditions shall absolve the licensee from any requirement in law to obtain whatever additional consents, permissions, authorisations or licences that may be necessary for the exercise entitlements under the licence.

3 <u>Definitions and Glossary of Terms</u>

3.1 Digital MMDS System

A Digital Multipoint Microwave Distribution System is a fixed service system used for the distribution of a modulated data stream containing Programme Service Multiplexes on a point to multipoint basis.

3.2 Headend

Equipment which is connected to receiving antennas or other signal sources and also connected to the remainder of the digital MMDS System, to process the signal to be distributed.

3.3 Effective Antenna Height (Eff. Ht.)

The height in metres above the average level of the ground between distances of 3 and 15 km from the transmitter. This is calculated for each of 36 evenly spaced radials (10 degree separation) starting from true North¹.

Note: This takes into account both the height of the site (a.s.l) and the height of the mast (a.g.l).

3.4 Omnidirectional Antenna.

An antenna having a horizontal radiation pattern with variations of 2 dB or less over 360 degrees.

3.5 Effective Radiated Power (e.r.p.) (in a given direction)

The product of the power supplied to the antenna and its gain in a given direction relative to a half-wave dipole. This is usually expressed in decibels relative to one watt (dBW).

3.5 Equivalent Isotropic Radiated Power (E.I.R.P.)

The Equivalent Isotropic Radiated Power is equal to the power supplied to the antenna multiplied by the isotropic gain of the antenna in a given direction.

3.6 Coverage Area

This is a geographical area within which the field strength is equal to or greater than the minimum field strength specified in Section 11 of this document

3.7 Commission

Commission for Communications Regulation.

3.8 Subscriber feeder

A feeder connecting a Subscriber's antenna and downconvertor to a system outlet or, where the latter is not used, directly to the subscriber's equipment.

¹This can be calculated by the Commission using the national grid reference, consisting of one letter and six digits, for the transmitting station, provided the site height above sea level and the antenna height above ground level are supplied.

3.9 System Outlet

A device for connecting a subscriber's feeder to a receiver lead.

3.10 Subscriber's Equipment

Equipment at the subscriber's premises such as compatible Set Top Boxes, Integrated Receiving Devices, or any device that is, or contains a compatible decoder.

3.11 Carrier to Noise ratio

The difference in decibels between the carrier level at a given point in the system and the noise level at that point (measured within a bandwidth appropriate to the television or radio system in use).

3.12 Programme Services Multiplex

A signal (which in its baseband form is a DVB transport stream, but is a signal with a bandwidth of 8MHz when modulated) containing more than one programme service, with associated and other data.

3.13 Transport Stream

A data stream corresponding to the relevant ETSI (DVB) standards carrying MPEG2 encoded video and associated or other data.

3.14 European Standards Body

A Body such as ETSI, the IEC or CENELEC who set standards for equipment or services.

4. <u>System Transparency</u>

4.1 **Television**

Unless specifically excluded by the licence the Digital MMDS system shall be designed in such a manner that it is capable of distributing all components within a Programme Service, intended for general reception².

Note: - This would include:-

Teletext and additional sound channels associated with the vision material. (see Section 6.7.1)

5. System Engineering

5.1 General

The mechanical and electrical construction of the Digital MMDS system shall be in accordance with best practice.

The practice of good system engineering is a necessary requirement to ensure the provision of a high quality service and the minimising of the potential for interference to, or from, radiocommunication services operating in accordance with the Irish Table of Frequency Allocations

5.2 Headend Installation

As the performance of the headend installation is critical to the overall performance of a Digital MMDS system, care must be taken in the installation and maintenance of this equipment. The headend and associated equipment shall be labelled with the manufacturer's trademark, type designation and function. The label shall be fitted on the outside of the equipment, and shall be clearly readable.

All controls, displays, meters, indicators and terminals shall be clearly labelled. Controls which, when wrongly adjusted, increase the risk of causing interference or of improper functioning of the system shall only be immediately accessible to qualified personnel only.

5.2.1 Spurious Emissions and Receiver Filtering

Careful consideration should be given to the levels of unwanted emissions received at the headend and adequate filtering employed to ensure that the picture quality as specified in Section 7.1 for each system outlet could be met.

5.2.2 Headend Output

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² While not intended for reception by the general public, the broadcast organisations include Test signals in the Transport Stream. The system must be transparent to these signals so as to facilitate performance measurements.

The signal parameters at the headend output should be such as to permit the Digital MMDS system to operate in accordance with the system standard and performance set out in Sections 6 and 7 respectively.

5.3 Weather Protection.

All apparatus and cables exposed to weather, corrosive atmosphere or other adverse conditions shall be so constructed or protected as may be necessary to prevent danger or interference arising from such exposure.

6. System Standards

The DVB-MC and DVB-T standards may be used.

SECTION A: DVB-MC

6.1. Transmission Standard

The DVB-MC standard is specified in ETS 300 749

6.2 Summary List of Parameters

6.2.1. Frequency Spacing and Bands of Operation

	radio-frequency ne Services Multip		bandwidth	of	a	8 MHz
Frequency	·	IOA				2524-2668 MHz

6.2.3 <u>Modulation</u>

Type of modulation (N Quadrature Amplitude Modulation)	D7W
Number of states	16, 32, 64

6.2.4 Emission Designation

8M00D7WFT

SECTION B: COFDM

6.1 <u>Transmission Standard</u>

The DVB-T standard is specified in ETS 300 744

6.2 Summary List of Parameters

6.2.1. <u>Frequency Spacing and Bands of Operation</u>

Nominal	radio-frequency	channel	bandwidth	of	a	8 MHz
Programme Services Multiplex						
Frequency Bands (Broadcasting bands)			III, IV and V			

6.2.3 Modulation

Modulation (COFDM)	X7F
Number of carriers	6817
Carrier Modulation	QPSK, 16QAM or 64QAM
Guard band	1/8 or1/16

6.2.4 Emission Designation 8M00X7FXF

6.3 Encoding Standards

System	ISO/IEC 13818-1
Video	MPEG 2 Main Profile, Main Level, ISO/IEC 13818-2
Audio	MPEG 2 layer I and II, ISO/IEC 13818-3
Data (Additional services for general reception)	EN 301 192
Data (Additional services for closed user groups)	EN 301 192
Technical Services (CA Message sections)	ETR 289

6.4 Minimum Programme Bit rates

Encoded Video	4.5 MBps
Encoded Audio, Stereo Channel	256 kBps
Encoded Audio, Mono Channel	96 kBps

If the original Programme Service has an Encoded Video bit rate of less than 4.5 MBps then that Programme service must be distributed at the supplied rate.

The Encoded Video bit rate may be reduced, if the operator can objectively show that their system can provide a Video signal with the equivalent resolution as an ITU-R grade 4.5 PAL I signal.

6.5 Software Updates

Changes to software services, should be implemented 'over the air' with the data in the form dictated by EN 301 192.

6.6 Other Video and Audio Parameters

Video Frame rate25HzAspect Ratio4:3 or 16:9ResolutionFull ScreenAudio Sampling Frequency48 kHzEmphasisNone

6.7 Additional Broadcasting Services

6.7.1 Permitted Additional Broadcasting Services.

The transmission of a subtitling or teletext service is permitted. The subtitling system used must conform to ETS 300 743 or any future European standard describing the implementation of such services. 'Over the air' software updates to Set Top Boxes are also permitted.

6.7.2 <u>Additional Broadcasting Services Requiring Approval from the Commission for Communications Regulation</u>

Prior approval and the relevant Licences must be obtained from the Commission for Communications Regulation for any additional services, other than those indicated in Section 6.7.1 that are included within a Programme Service Multiplex. Any Telecommunications services, whether voice, data or otherwise will require approval from the Commission.

System Performance

7.1 Impairment Quality

The performance limits set out in this section apply in the presence of all signals for which the Digital MMDS system was designed.

There are three main forms of visible degradation in a digital television signal. These are exhibited by artefacts such as an absence of picture, freezing of frames and blocking (where the picture turns into coarse blocks).

The signal should be free from all such degradation for 99% of the time at all locations served.

7.2 <u>Planning Field Strength</u>

The maximum field strength of a digital signal at any point, in any adjacent cell, where the channel is in use for an analogue television signal shall be $41dB\mu V/m$. This is based on an analogue signal suffering interference from the digital signal requiring a protection ratio (PR) of 45dB.

However, if a digital system is proposed where the protection ratio required by the analogue service from an interfering digital service is greater than 45dB, the maximum field strength shall be:

$$FS_{max} = (86-PR) dB\mu V/m$$
.

7.3 <u>Impedance</u>

The nominal impedance of the receive system shall be 75 ohms. It should be noted that this value applies to all coaxial feeder cable and system outlets and shall be used as the reference impedance in level measurements on the Digital MMDS system

7.4 Measurement Point

The parameters specified in Section 7 relate to performance at the system outlet

7.5 Limit on Effective Antenna Height

The transmitting antenna shall be limited to that height necessary to provide a line of sight path to the required coverage area. Heights above 200 metres will not normally be allowed except as special cases.

7.6 <u>Limit on Equivalent Isotropic Radiated Power</u>

In general, the EIRP shall be adjusted so as not to cause the field strength, at the edge of the Primary Cell, as calculated by using figure 1, to exceed 46(dB μV/m). The maximum EIRP must not exceed 22dBW in any direction

7.7 Relaxation of EIRP and Effective Antenna Height Limits

If the desired field strength is not obtained at the edge of the coverage area, the Commission may consider a request to increase the EIRP and or the Effective Antenna Height. The maximum EIRP must not exceed the limits set in 7.6 above at an Effective Antenna Height of 200m.

Where a case is made for an Effective Height above 200m the maximum permissible EIRP shall be reduced by 1dB for every 25m of height above 200m.

Excessive EIRP or Effective Antenna Heights proposed merely to provide coverage to relatively few receiving stations which are not ideally located will not be permitted. Greater than maximum Effective Antenna Heights and EIRPs will only be permitted where they do not cause interference to other services in the same or adjacent bands.

7.8 Transmitting Antenna

The polar pattern of the transmitting antenna will be dependent on its location relative to its service area. The antenna shall employ linear polarisation, using the vertical or horizontal component in accordance with the national plan. The orthogonal component shall be at least 22dB below the wanted signal.

7.9 **Transmitter Characteristics**

7.9.1 Frequency Range of Operation

The transmitter will operate within the following frequency band 2524-2668MHz

7.9.2 Frequency Stability

For DVB-MC systems the variation in frequency from the declared nominal value shall not exceed ±500 Hz.

Where DVB-T standard is used the frequency stability shall be

Fs = Bw/100N

Fs Frequency Stability Bandwidth (8 MHz) Bw

N No of carriers It is recommended that if a number of channels are combined into a single antenna for transmission, a common frequency source is used for obtaining each channel.

7.9.3 Transmitter Spurious Emissions

Emissions within the channel shall be as set in the appropriate standard ETS 300 749 or ETS 300 744. Emissions appearing on frequencies outside of the allocated channel bandwidth shall be attenuated by at least 60 dB at 1 MHz outside the channel edge.

If the transmitter site is shared with or is adjacent to that of another radio service, the Digital MMDS system operator may be required to take special measures to reduce the level of spurious emissions to below the stated level.

8. Receiver Characteristics

8.1 <u>Receiver Antenna Characteristics</u>

The receiving antenna shall normally have the following minimum characteristics

Antenna gain	22dBi
Antenna front to back ratio	20dB

Orthogonal polarisation discrimination 19 dB Main Beam

6 dB All other Azimuths

8.2 Down Convertor Characteristics

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{Noise Figure} & 2 \text{ dB} \\ \text{Output Impedance} & 75 \, \Omega \end{array}$

Output level $50 \text{ dB}\mu\text{V} (+12 \text{ dB}, -6 \text{ dB})$

Output Frequency Range	Band III	174-230 MHz
	Band IV/V	470-790 MHz

The receiving equipment interconnections shall use high quality double-screened co-axial cable of the tape and braid variety.

8.3 UHF/VHF By-pass Facility

Facilities must be provided to enable the MMDS system to be 'by-passed' and off air signals to be received.

8.4 Spurious Emissions

In any digital MMDS receiving device the output power of any spurious emissions shall not exceed 2 nW in the frequency range 100 kHz to 1 GHz and 20 nW on all frequencies above 1 GHz.

9. <u>SAFETY</u>

9.1 General Safety.

The station and its premises must comply with all relevant statutory safety regulations.

9.2 <u>Safety Controls</u>

There shall be a single control to isolate power for the entire installation. If a form of auxiliary power (such as diesel generators or an Uninterruptable Power Supply) is provided, then the same control should isolate these. The 'on' position of such a device must be clearly indicated. Guards may be fitted to the device to prevent accidental operation.

9.3 <u>Safety Standards</u>

The system must comply with the following requirements:

I.S. /EN 60215: 1990

Safety Requirements for Radio Transmitting Equipment.

ENV50166-2

Human exposure to electromagnetic fields High frequency (10 kHz to 300 GHz)

These standards are available from the National Standards Authority of Ireland³.

³Please note that the standard ENV 50166-2 is a European Pre standard and shall be replaced by the respective European Standard when it becomes available.

10 National Plan

10.1 Channelling Groups

The proposed channelling arrangements are detailed in table 1. This consists of 18 channels in the band 2524-2668 MHz, subdivided into 2 separate groups of interleaved channels. Group A use the odd numbered channels and group B the even channels. Different frequencies to those specified in table 1 will not normally be permitted.

Spectrum allocations may be revised in accordance with good frequency management and may be changed as a result of such reviews.

Each group of channels may be used with either a vertically or horizontally polarised antenna.

Where a cell uses the even channels for the analogue service then the odd channels will be used for the digital service see *figure 1* below

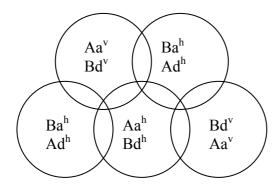


figure 1

Key

Aa^x: Odd Channels Analogue (A Channels)

Adx: Odd Channels Digital

Ba^x: Even Channels Analogue (B Channels)

Bd^x: Even Channels Digital x=v: Vertical Polarisation x=h: Horizontal Polarisation

Notes: To prevent interference in the overlapping area between cells only one licensee may provide service in any given area. Licensees must come to an agreement between theirselves to provide service in overlapping areas

10.2 Primary Tier of National Plan

Map 1 and table 2 details the primary tier of the national plan. This is based on the strategy shown above. The plan is based on Primary Cells with radii of between 16 and 48 km. Terrain features have been used as far as possible to form the outer limits of the cells (see table 2 and map 1 for details.)

10.3 Modifications to the Plan

While the plan is based on transmitter stations using omnidirectional or near omnidirectional antennae sited at the centre of the Primary Cells (see grid references given in table 2). Applicants may, if they wish, use a different site using a suitable radiation pattern to provide the desired service.

The new EIRP should be determined bearing in mind the planning limit in Section 7.

10.4 Fill-in Stations

Due to the limitations imposed on the signal by the surrounding terrain it may not be possible to service the entire cell from one area. In such cases fill in stations may be permitted. Details of the proposed locations and channel/polarisation combinations should be submitted to the Commission.

11 <u>Coverage Area Prediction</u>

The planning limit is $46 \text{ dB}\mu\text{V/m}$ and should not extend beyond the line of sight distance to the horizon or beyond the edge of the primary cell.

As this is a line of sight system, the propagation path between the transmitting and receiving antennae should be unobstructed.

The line of sight distance (D) in kilometres may be calculated from the following formula:

 $D = \sqrt{(12.6H)}$

Where H is Effective Height in metres.

The EIRP and Effective Height should be selected, such that the field strength at the most distant location does not exceed the planning limit given in section 7.

12 <u>Protection and Co-ordination</u>

12.1 <u>Protection Criteria</u>

The channels used shall be in accordance with those indicated in tables 1 and 2. However additional channel requirements, for fill-in stations, shall satisfy the technical criteria for protection to all other planned/assigned channels. The protection contour shall be the limit given in Section 7.

Unless advised to the contrary by the Commission, it should be assumed that in the case of fill-in stations the protection contour shall not extend beyond the edge of the Primary Cells.

A	•	
Assu	mıng	; a

Carrier to Noise Ratio for COFDM 640 DVB-C 64 Q			=		
Digital interfering with digital (adjac	,	PR		0 dB	
Analogue interfering with digital (co	-channel)	PR	COFDM	5 dB	
		DVB-	-C	25dB	
Digital interfering with analogue (co	-channel)	PR		45 dB	

The permissible interfering field strength at the protected contour is calculated according to the equation in Section 12.2. For distances of 20 km or greater *figure 4* can be used. For distances of less than 20 km use *figure 3*. Special consideration should be given to areas of very irregular terrain.

Where a fill-in station is within the protection contour of another station the orthogonal polarisation shall be used.

12.2 Analysis of Protection Requirements

Protection analysis may be undertaken using the method shown below.

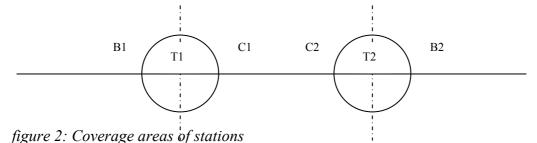


Figure 2 shows the coverage areas of a protected station T1 and proposed station T2 which do not overlap. Overlapping service areas may be similarly analysed.

For co-channel and first adjacent channel stations, the maximum permissible interfering field strength at the protected contour of another station shall be determined using the following equation:

$Fu = FS_{min} + GD + XPD - PR$

Where: Fu Unwanted Interfering Field Strength

- FS_{min} Minimum Wanted Field Strength (66 dBμV/m for Analogue, 46 dBμV/m for COFDM 64QAM, 56 dBμV/m for DVB-C 64QAM)
- GD Receive Antenna Discrimination (20dB, locations C1 and C2; 0 dB locations B1 and B2)
- XPD Orthogonal Polarisation discrimination (when T1, 2 use orthogonal polarisation). (19 dB, locations B1 and B2; 6 dB locations C1 and C2)
- PR Protection Ratio.

The distance corresponding to Fu is determined from the curves shown in *figure 4* using the corresponding transmitting antenna height above the average terrain for each relevant direction. For distances less than 20 km use *figure 3*.

The minimum wanted field strength for analogue services is $66~dB\mu V/m$ and this field strength will be permitted at the edge of the service area. Priority should thus be afforded to existing Analogue services over new Digital services in determining the maximum field strength at a cell boundary.

12.3 Co-ordination

Channel assignments in Ireland that are within approximately 80 km of the territorial boundary with Northern Ireland or within approximately 30 km of the east coast of Ireland may require co-ordination with the United Kingdom administration. Such co-ordination will be undertaken by the Commission in order to minimise the potential for interference between radio services in Ireland and those in the United Kingdom.

In considering sharing between the Digital MMDS system and other services in the same or adjacent bands, reference will be made to the standard ITU-R sharing criteria as specified in the Radio Regulations or any relevant ETSI standard.

13 Access to Equipment, System Testing and Maintenance

13.1 Access and Personnel

The licensee shall on request made by an authorised officer of the Commission for Communications Regulation, facilitate that officer in the inspection⁴ of any part of the Digital MMDS system.

13.2 <u>Test Equipment (system performance)</u>

Adequate test equipment shall be held by the licensee for measurements of the system performance parameters specified in Section 7 whilst the system is undergoing initial alignment, regular maintenance and performance audits.

13.4 Maintenance

The licensee shall ensure that the system is audited and maintained on a regular basis so as to ensure compliance with these conditions. The licensee shall keep a log indicating the dates and results of these audits and maintenance work undertaken. A copy of the maintenance programme and the log shall be made available to an authorised officer of the Commission for Communications Regulation on request.

14. Measurement Procedures.

14.1 Measurement of Performance Parameters

Unless otherwise specified by the Commission for Communications Regulation, the procedure for measuring performance parameters shall be in accordance with those specified in any relevant ETSI, IEC or CENELEC standard

Note: - As some of these procedure involve the removal of the programme signal and replacing it by a test signal, for the duration of the measurement period, alternative measurement procedures may be considered by the Commission so as to minimise disruption to the viewers. However where the Commission is not satisfied with results obtained using alternative measurement procedures then the measurements shall be repeated using the procedures any relevant ETSI, IEC or CENELEC standard.

⁴ Inspection shall include the undertaking of measurements

15. <u>Performance Audits and Information to be Submitted to the Commission</u> for Communications Regulation.

15.1 Regular Performance Audits

Licensees will be required to undertake regular performance audits on their Digital MMDS system and submit the results to the Commission for Communications Regulation for consideration. These audits must be carried out in compliance with any methodology, time periods or requirements specified by the Communications for Communications Regulation.

15.2 <u>Updating of Information on Subscribers</u>

The licensee shall submit to the Commission for Communications Regulation on a six monthly basis an up to date list of the number of subscribers using the Digital MMDS system

15.3 Update of System Information

The licensee shall upon request from the Commission for Communications Regulation, submit:-

an up to date frequency plan indicating the programme name of each television channel and its position and ID in the Programme Service Multiplex. The licensee shall notify the Commission immediately any change occurs.

an updated network diagram/map of their system clearly indicating the most up to date geographical area of operation of their Digital MMDS system and the location of the headend.

Table 1 MMDS Channel Plan Group A

Channel Number	Channel Frequencies (MHz)	
1	2500-2508*	
3	2516-2524*	
5	2532-2540	
7	2548-2556	
9	2564-2572	
11	2580-2588	
13	2596-2604	
15	2612-2620	
17	2628-2636	
19	2644-2652	
21	2660-2668	

Table 1 (Continued) MMDS Channel Plan Group B

Channel Number	Channel Frequencies (MHz)
2	2508-2516*
4	2524-2532
6	2540-2548
8	2556-2564
10	2572-2580
12	2588-2596
14	2604-2612
16	2620-2628
18	2636-2644
20	2652-2660
22	2668-2676*

^{*} These frequencies are not available from 1/01/2005 onwards

Details of Primary Cells

CELL NO.	CELL NAME	NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	RANGE
1	Buncrana	C352 290	20
2	Dunglow	B736 075	15
3	Dunkineely	G727 714	15
4	Ballycroy	F815 117	20
5	Foxford	G282 027	20
6	Sligo	G713 299	15
7	Stradone	H582 049	15
8	Cavanagarvan	H634 266	10
9	Dundalk	J143 076	20
10	Curraghroe	M953 746	30
11	Mullingar	N476 548	15
12	Navan	N924 691	20
13	Galway	M260 272	30
14	Cloghan	N089 187	20
15	Kildare	N714 168	20
16	Howth	O283 377	20
17	Wicklow	T286 931	15
18	Ballybunnion	Q910 425	20
19	Limerick	R523 636	30
20	Boggan	S327 570	30
21	Nurney	S749 653	15
22	Gorey	T180 626	10
23	Kilcotty	T070 385	15
23a	Ballycanew	T093 498	20
24	Farranfore	Q952 004	15
25	Mallow	W623 980	20
26	Villierstown	X110 940	15
27	Cheekpoint	S681 128	20
28	Drinagh	W243 448	15
29	Cork Airport	W684 663	20

Note:

- (i) National Grid References quoted are for centres of cells.
- (ii) Range quoted is in miles.

MMDS Geographical Cell Allocation

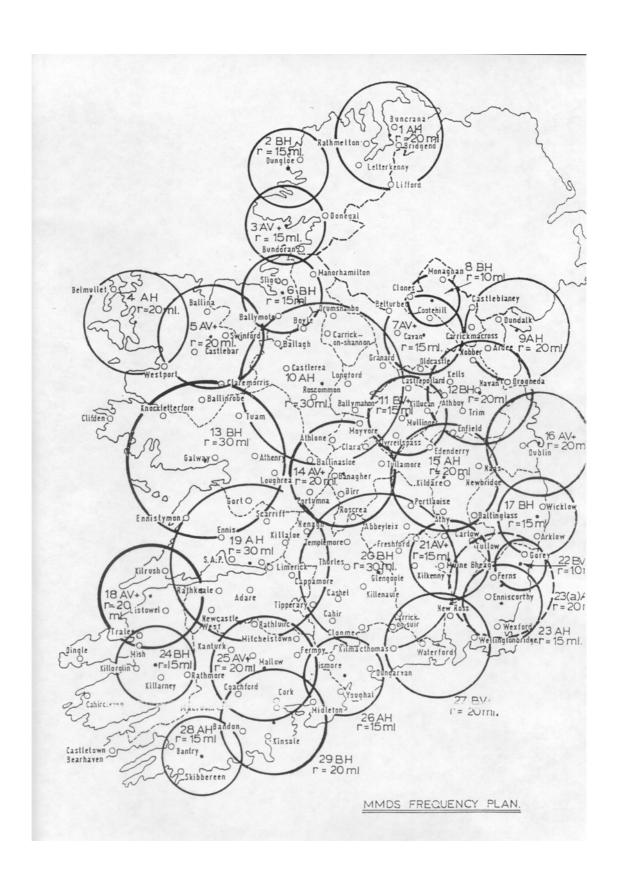


Fig. 3: 2.6 GHz Field Intensity Versus Distance for Various Transmitting Antenna Heights at an EIRP of 32 dBw

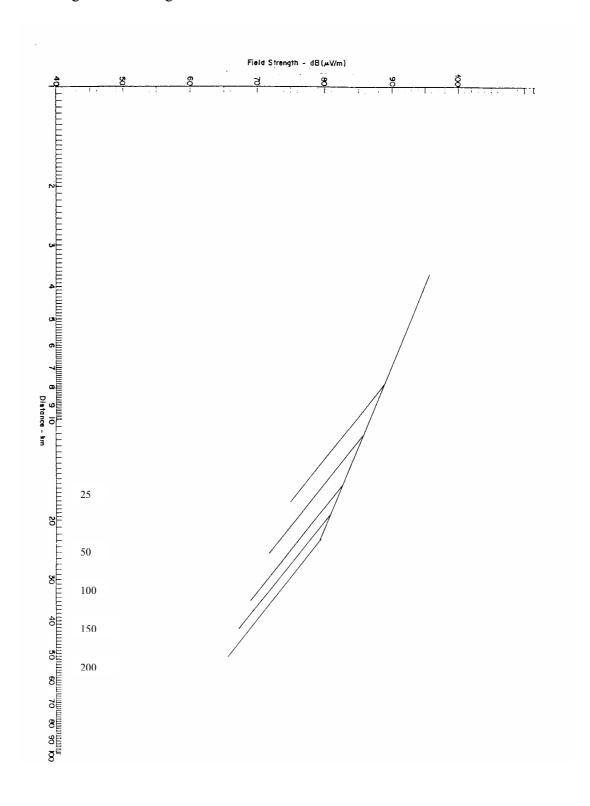


Fig. 4: 2.6 GHz Field Intensity Exceeded for 10% of the Time, Versus Distance for Various Heights of Transmitting antenna at an EIRP of 32dBW. (Receive Antenna Height 10m, Transmitting Antenna Heights in Metres, Distance in km)

