

Radiocommunications (Unacceptable Levels of Interference 2.3 GHz Band) Determination 2023

The Australian Communications and Media Authority makes the following determination under subsection 145(4) of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*.

Dated:

Member

Member/General Manager

Australian Communications and Media Authority

1 Name

This is the *Radiocommunications (Unacceptable Levels of Interference – 2.3 GHz Band) Determination 2023*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences at the start of the day after the day it is registered on the Federal Register of Legislation.

Note: The Federal Register of Legislation may be accessed free of charge at [www.legislation.gov.au](http://www.legislation.gov.au).

3 Authority

This instrument is made under subsection 145(4) of the Act.

4 Repeal of the *Radiocommunications (Unacceptable Levels of Interference – 2.3 GHz Band) Determination 2013*

The *Radiocommunications (Unacceptable Levels of Interference – 2.3 GHz Band) Determination 2013* [F2013L02155] is repealed.

5 Definitions

(1) In this instrument, unless the contrary intention appears:

***2.3 GHz band*** means the frequency band 2300 MHz to 2400 MHz.

***2.3 GHz spectrum licence*** means a spectrum licence that authorises the operation of radiocommunications devices in the 2.3 GHz band.

***device boundary***: see item 1 of Schedule 1.

***device boundary criterion***: see item 2 of Schedule 1.

***Recommendation ITU-R P.525-4*** means the ITU-R Recommendation “P.525-4 Calculation of free-space attenuation”.

Note: The ITU-R Recommendations are available, free of charge, from the International Telecommunication Union’s website at [www.itu.int](http://www.itu.int).

***Recommendation ITU-R P.526-15*** means the ITU-R Recommendation “P.526-15 Propagation by diffraction”.

Note: The ITU-R Recommendations are available, free of charge, from the International Telecommunication Union’s website at [www.itu.int](http://www.itu.int).

***Recommendation ITU-R P.2108-0*** means the ITU-R Recommendation “P.2108-0 Prediction of clutter loss”.

Note 1: The ITU-R Recommendations are available, free of charge, from the International Telecommunication Union’s website at [www.itu.int](http://www.itu.int).

Note 2: A number of other expressions used in this instrument are defined in the Act, including the following:

(a) ACMA;

(b) core condition;

(c) frequency band;

(d) interference;

(e) radiocommunications device;

(f) radiocommunications receiver;

(g) radiocommunications transmitter;

(h) radio emission;

(i) Register;

(j) spectrum licence.

Note 3: A number of other expressions used in this instrument may be defined in an instrument made under subsection 64(1) of the *Australian Communications and Media Authority Act 2005*, including:

(a) AAS;

(b) Act;

(c) Australian Spectrum Map Grid;

(d) Australian territorial sea baseline;

(e) average ground height;

(f) DEM-3S;

(g) geographic area;

(h) HCIS;

(i) HCIS identifier;

(j) ITU-R Recommendation;

(k) Radio Regulations.

(2) In this instrument, unless otherwise specified, a reference to a part of the spectrum or a frequency band includes all frequencies that are greater than but not including the lower frequency, up to and including the higher frequency.

Note: This subsection means the lower number in a part of the spectrum or a frequency band is not included in the frequency band.

6 References to other instruments

In this instrument, unless the contrary intention appears:

(a) a reference to any other legislative instrument is a reference to that other legislative instrument as in force from time to time; and

(b) a reference to any other kind of instrument or writing is a reference to that other instrument or writing as in force or existence from time to time.

Note 1: For references to Commonwealth Acts, see section 10 of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*; and see also subsection 13(1) of the *Legislation Act 2003* for the application of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* to legislative instruments.

Note 2: All Commonwealth Acts and legislative instruments are registered on the Federal Register of Legislation.

Note 3: See section 314A of the Act.

7 Unacceptable levels of interference

(1) A level of interference caused by a radiocommunications transmitter operated under a 2.3 GHz spectrum licence is unacceptable if:

(a) the operation of the transmitter results in a contravention of a core condition of the licence relating to the maximum permitted level of radio emission from the transmitter:

(i) outside the parts of the spectrum the use of which is authorised under the licence; or

(ii) outside the geographic area of the licence; or

(b) subject to subsections (2) and (3), any part of the device boundary of the transmitter lies outside of the geographic area of the licence; or

(c) the device boundary of the transmitter cannot be calculated in accordance with item 1 of Schedule 1.

(2) A level of interference mentioned in paragraph (1)(b) is not unacceptable in relation to a part of the device boundary of the transmitter that:

(a) lies outside the geographic area of the licence; and

(b) is connected to a radial that:

(i) is mentioned in item 1 of Schedule 1; and

(ii) does not cross over land outside the geographic area of the licence that is permanently above the Australian territorial sea baseline.

(3) A level of interference mentioned in paragraph (1)(b) is not unacceptable in relation to a part of the device boundary of the transmitter if:

(a) lies outside the geographic area of the licence; and

(b) is connected to a radial that:

(i) is mentioned in item 1 of Schedule 1; and

(ii) does not cross over land outside the geographic area of the licence that is permanently above the Australian territorial sea baseline; and

(iii) does not cross into any of the following HCIS identifiers: IW3E, IW3I, IW3M, IW6A, IW6E, KX9, LX7, LX8, LX9.

Note: The HCIS identifiers beginning with IW describe an area near Adelaide. The HCIS identifiers beginning with KX and LX describe an area in the Bass Strait.

(4) This section does not apply in relation to a radiocommunications transmitter to which section 9 applies.

Note Subsection 145(1) of the Act provides that the ACMA may refuse to include in the Register details of a radiocommunications transmitter if the ACMA is satisfied that operation of the transmitter could cause an unacceptable level of interference to the operation of other radiocommunications devices. However, some radiocommunications transmitters are exempt from the requirement to be registered in the Register under their 2.3 GHz band spectrum licence – see subsection 69(2) of the Act.

8 Accuracy

Unless otherwise specified, the value of a parameter in Schedule 1 must be estimated with a level of confidence not less than 95 percent that the true value of the parameter will always remain below the requirement specified in this instrument.

9 Transitional – radiocommunications transmitter registered before commencement of this instrument

(1) If a radiocommunications transmitter was included in the Register in relation to a 2.3 GHz band spectrum licence before the commencement of this instrument (***relevant transmitter***), this section applies in relation to that transmitter.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), for the purposes of subsection 145(4) of the Act, a level of interference caused by a relevant transmitter is unacceptable if it would have been unacceptable under the *Radiocommunications (Unacceptable Levels of Interference – 2.3 GHz Band) Determination 2013*, as in force at the time the relevant transmitter was included in the Register.

Note: The *Radiocommunications (Unacceptable Levels of Interference – 2.3 GHz Band) Determination 2013* is available, free of charge, from the Federal Register of Legislation at [www.legislation.gov.au](http://www.legislation.gov.au).

(3) For the purposes of subsection 145(4) of the Act, if:

(a) after the commencement of this instrument, both:

(i) a detail of a relevant transmitter changes (***relevant change***); and

(ii) the change to the detail is recorded in the Register; and

(b) the distance of the new device boundary of the relevant transmitter is, on each radial mentioned in item 1 of Schedule 1, equal to or less than the distance of the old device boundary of the relevant transmitter on that radial; and

(c) but for the effect of this subsection, a level of interference caused by the relevant transmitter, immediately after the change time, would be unacceptable;

the level of interference caused by the relevant transmitter, immediately after the change time, is not unacceptable because of the relevant change.

(4) For the purposes of subsection 145(4) of the Act, if:

(a) after the commencement of this instrument, both:

(i) a detail of a relevant transmitter changes (***relevant change***); and

(ii) the change to the detail is recorded in the Register; and

(b) the distance of the new additional device boundary of the relevant transmitter is, on each radial mentioned in item 1 of Schedule 1, equal to or less than the distance of the old additional device boundary of the relevant transmitter on that radial; and

(c) but for the effect of this subsection, a level of interference caused by the relevant transmitter, immediately after the change time, would be unacceptable;

the level of interference caused by the relevant transmitter, immediately after the change time, is not unacceptable because of the relevant change.

(5) In subsections (3) and (4):

***change time***, for a relevant transmitter, means the time the relevant change is recorded in the Register.

***new additional device boundary***, of a relevant transmitter, means the additional device boundary of the transmitter established immediately after the change time, in accordance with this instrument as in force at the change time.

***new device boundary***, of a relevant transmitter, means the device boundary of the transmitter established immediately after the change time, in accordance with this instrument as in force at the change time.

***old additional device boundary***, of a relevant transmitter, means the additional device boundary of the transmitter established immediately before the change time, in accordance with the *Radiocommunications (Unacceptable Levels of Interference – 2.3 GHz Band) Determination 2013*, as in force at the registration time.

***old device boundary***, of a relevant transmitter, means the device boundary of the transmitter established immediately before the change time, in accordance with the *Radiocommunications (Unacceptable Levels of Interference – 2.3 GHz Band) Determination 2013*, as in force at the registration time.

***registration time***, for a relevant transmitter, means the time the transmitter was included in the Register.

# Schedule 1 Device boundary and device boundary criterion

(subsections 5(1), 7(1), 7(2) and 7(3), section 8 and subsections 9(3) and 9(4))

1 Device boundary of a radiocommunications transmitter

(1) The ***device boundary*** of a single radiocommunications transmitter is established as follows:

Step 1: Calculate the device boundary criterion at each *m*×100 metre increment along each of the *n*-degree radials, where:

***m*** is each of the integers from 2 through 1010; and

***n*** is each of the integer degrees from 0 (true north) through 359.

Step 2: For each radial, find the latitude and longitude of the first point on the radial, moving away from the location of the radiocommunications transmitter (that is, with the lowest value of *m*) where either:

(a) the device boundary criterion, *RP* – *MP*, is less than or equal to 0; or

(b) *m* is equal to 1010.

This point is the ***end point*** of the radial.

Step 3: The end point of each radial is the ***device boundary*** of the radiocommunications transmitter connected to that radial.

Note: *RP* – *MP* (the device boundary criterion) is calculated under item 2 of this Schedule.

(2) For a group of radiocommunications transmitters the ***device boundary*** is calculated as if for a single radiocommunications transmitter. However, the radiated power (***RP***) for a group of radiocommunications transmitters is taken:

(a) to be equal for each bearing *σn*; and

(b) to have a value that is equal to the maximum horizontally radiated power, in any direction, of any of the radiocommunications transmitters in the group.

Note: *σn* is the bearing of the *nth*-degree radial for the group of radiocommunications transmitters.

2 Device boundary criterion

The ***device boundary criterion*** is the value of the mathematical expression:

*RP* – *MP*

where:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***MP*** | : | is *PL*(*lmn, Lmn*) *+ LOP – Gr*; |
| ***RP*** | : | is the horizontally radiated power, measured in dBm EIRP per MHz, for each bearing, *σn*; |
| Note 1: |  | For a radiocommunications transmitter with AAS, the *RP* at bearing *σn* is defined as the sum of the gain of the antenna towards the horizontal plane and towards azimuth *σn* (dB) and the total radiated power (dBm). This allowance is based on the assumption that beam pointing angles and/or power can be controlled dynamically to ensure *RP* is not exceeded. |
| Note 2: |  | For ***RP***for a group of radiocommunications transmitters, see subitem 1(2) of this Schedule. |
| ***Gr*** | : | is the nominal radiocommunications receiver antenna gain, including feeder loss set to 0 dBi; |
| ***LOP*** | : | is the level of protection. For radiocommunications transmitters that incorporate an AAS, the ***LOP*** is -91.5 dBm per 5 MHz. For all other radiocommunications transmitters, the ***LOP*** is -99.5 dBm per 5 MHz; |
| ***PL(lmn, Lmn)*** | : | is the propagation loss (dB) (calculated under item 3 of this Schedule) of the *mth* increment on the *nth* radial. |

3 Calculation of propagation loss for device boundary criterion

(1) Subject to this item, the propagation loss for a radiocommunications transmitter, at the *mth* increment on the *nth* radial (*PL(lmn, Lmn)*) is calculated using:

(a) for a transmitter connected to an antenna that is located more than 6 metres above ground level – the method and parameters set out in section 2.2 of Recommendation ITU-R P.525-4 and section 4.5.2 of Recommendation ITU-R P.526-15; or

(b) for a transmitter connected to an antenna that is located 6 metres above ground level, or lower – the method and parameters set out in section 2.2 of Recommendation ITU-R P.525-4 and section 3 of Recommendation ITU-R P.2108-0.

(2) For the purposes of using the method set out in section 4.5.2 of Recommendation ITU-R P.526-15:

(a) the height of the nominal radiocommunications receiver is taken to be 5 metres above ground level; and

(b) the height of the transmitter above ground level is the height of the antenna for the transmitter; and

(c) the height of a profile point is the average ground height of that point.

(3) For the purposes of using the method set out in section 4.5.2 of Recommendation ITU-R P.526-15:

(a) the path profile in that method must be developed by sampling the DEM-3S at 100 metre increments along each radial; and

(b) the average ground height is worked out at each increment along the path profile.

(4) For the purposes of using the method set out in section 3.2 of Recommendation ITU-R P.2108-0:

(a) the percentage of locations is 0.08%, and the correction is applied at only one end of the path; and

(b) if the loss calculated using the method is less than 0 dB, the calculated loss value is taken to be 0 dB; and

(c) if the loss calculated using the method is greater than 8 dB, the calculated loss value is taken to be 8 dB.