

Chapter 4

Allocations, Allotments and Plans

4.1 FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS

4.1.1 International Table of Frequency Allocations

Article 5 of the Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union (Edition of 2016) has been incorporated to the extent practicable in this section on the left side of the Table. The International Table of Frequency Allocations is subdivided into the Region 1 Table, the Region 2 Table, and the Region 3 Table. The International Table is included for informational purposes only.

4.1.2 United States Table of Frequency Allocations

1. The United States Table of Frequency Allocations is comprised of federal and non-federal Tables of Frequency Allocations. The United States Table indicates the normal national frequency allocation planning and the degree of conformity with the International Table. When required in the national interest and consistent with national rights, as well as obligations undertaken by the United States to other countries that may be affected, additional uses of frequencies in any band may be authorized to meet service needs other than those provided for in the United States Table.

2. Specific exceptions to the United States Table of Frequency Allocations are as follows:

a. A federal frequency assignment may be authorized in a band allocated exclusively for non-federal use, as an exception, provided that a) the assignment is coordinated with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and b) no harmful interference will be caused to the service rendered by non-federal stations, present or future.

b. A non-federal frequency assignment may be authorized in a band allocated exclusively for federal use, as an exception, provided that a) the assignment is coordinated with the IRAC and b) no harmful interference will be caused to the service rendered by federal stations, present or future.

3. In the case of bands shared by federal and non-federal services, frequency assignments therein shall be subject to coordination between the NTIA (via IRAC) and the FCC and no priority is recognized unless the terms of such priority are specifically defined in the United States Table of Frequency Allocations or unless they are subject to mutually agreed arrangements in specific cases.

4.1.3 Federal Table of Frequency Allocations

1. The Federal Table of Frequency Allocations shall be used as a guide in the assignment of radio frequencies to federal radio stations in the United States and Possessions. Exceptions to the Table may be made by the IRAC after careful consideration to avoid harmful interference and to ensure compliance with the ITU Radio Regulations.

2. For the use of frequencies by federal radio stations outside the United States and Possessions, federal agencies shall be guided insofar as practicable by the ITU Table of Frequency Allocations and, where applicable, by the authority of the host government. Maximum practicable effort should be made to avoid the possibility of harmful interference to other authorized U.S. operations. If harmful interference is considered likely, it is incumbent upon the agency conducting the operation to coordinate with other U.S. Flag users, as provided for in Section 8.3.11.

3. Application of the federal table is subject to the recognition that:

a. Below 25000 kHz the table is only applicable in the assignment of frequencies after September 5, 1961; under Article 48 of the International Telecommunication Constitution, administrations “retain their entire freedom with regard to military radio installations of their army, naval and air forces”; and under No. 4.4 of the ITU Radio Regulations, administrations may assign frequencies in derogation of the ITU Table of Frequency Allocations “on the express condition that harmful interference shall not be caused to services carried on by stations operating in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and of these Regulations.”

b. Some frequency assignments below 25000 kHz that were made before September 5, 1961, are not in conformity with the Federal Table of Frequency Allocations. Because of the exception mentioned in subparagraph a, the status of these assignments can be determined only on a case-by-case basis. With this exception, the rules pertaining to the relative status between radio services are as follows:

4. Station of a secondary services: are on a non-interference basis to the primary service:

a. Shall not cause harmful interference to stations of primary services to which frequencies are already assigned or to which frequencies may be assigned at a later date;

b. Cannot claim protection from harmful interference from stations of a primary service to which frequencies are already assigned or may be assigned at a later date;

c. Can claim protection, however, from harmful interference from stations of the same or other secondary service(s) to which frequencies may be assigned at a later date.

5. Additional allocation - where a band is indicated in a footnote of the Table as “also allocated” to a service in an area smaller than a Region, or in a particular country. For example, an allocation which is added in this area or in this country to the service or services which are indicated in the Table.

6. Alternative allocation - where a band is indicated in a footnote of the Table as “allocated” to one or more services in an area smaller than a Region, or in a particular country. For example, an allocation which replaces, in this area or in this country, the allocation indicated in the Table.

7. Different category of service - where the allocation category (primary or secondary) of the service in the Table is changed. For example, the Table reflects the allocation as Fixed, Mobile and RADIOLOCATION, the category of these services are changed by the footnote to FIXED, MOBILE and Radiolocation.

8. An allocation or a footnote to the Federal Table of Frequency Allocations denoting relative status between radio services automatically applies to each assignment in the band to which the footnote or allocation pertains, unless at the time of a particular frequency assignment action a different provision is decided upon for the assignment concerned.

9. A priority note reflecting the same provisions as an allocation or an applicable footnote to the U.S. Federal Table of Frequency Allocations is redundant and shall not be applied to frequency assignments.

10. An assignment that is in conformity with the service allocation (as amplified by pertinent footnotes) for the band in which it is contained takes precedence over assignments therein that are not in conformity unless, at the time of the frequency assignment action, a different provision is decided upon.

11. Where in this Table a band is indicated as allocated to more than one service, such services are listed in the following order:

a. Services, the names of which are printed in all capital letters (example: FIXED); these services are called “primary” services;

b. Services, the names of which are printed in “normal characters” (example: Mobile); these are “secondary” services.

12. The international allocations are contained on the left side of the table, while the U.S. provisions are shown on the right side of the table. Three columns are contained under the U.S. portion of the table. Column 1 contains services allocated for use by federal users. Column 2 provides services allocated for use by non-federal users. Column 3 contains remarks. If all the allocations in Columns 1 and 2 are the same, these columns are shown merged.

a. Column 1 indicates the band limits for the federal allocations including all “US” and “G” (retained from previously used terminology) footnotes considered to be applicable to the federal users nationally. Where the allocated service is followed by a function in parentheses, e.g., SPACE (space-to-Earth), the allocation is limited to the function shown.

b. Column 2 indicates the band limits for the non-federal allocations including all “US” footnotes, and certain “NG” footnotes as contained in Part 2 of the FCC Rules and Regulations. Where the allocated service is followed by a function in parentheses, e.g., SPACE (space-to-Earth), the allocation is limited to the function shown. This non-federal (NG-retained from previously used terminology “Non-Government”.) data has been included in the federal table for information purposes only.

c. Column 3 contains such remarks as serve to amplify the federal and non-federal allocation or point out understanding between the FCC and NTIA in respect thereof. The numbers in parenthesis () refer to the FCC Rule Part number. The international footnotes shown in the columns to the left of the double line are applicable only in the relationships between the U.S. and other countries. An international footnote is applicable to the U.S. Table of Allocations if the number also appears in Columns 1 and 2 of the U.S. Table.

13. The international footnote is then applicable to both federal and non-federal use. The text of the footnotes in this Table is listed in numerical order at the end of the table, in sections headed International, United States (US), Non-Federal (NG) and Federal (G) footnotes.