RECOMMENDATION ITU-R M.1174-4[[1]](#footnote-1)\*

Technical characteristics of equipment used for on-board vessel communications in the bands between 450 and 470 MHz

(1995-1998-2004-2015-2019)

Scope

This Recommendation describes the technical characteristics for equipment operating in the maritime mobile services in accordance with the provisions of No. **5.287** of the Radio Regulations (RR) for on-board vessel communications. Provision is made for 25 kHz or 12.5 kHz channel spacing for analogue and digital technologies. In addition, 6.25 kHz channel spacing may also be used for digital technology.

Keywords

Maritime, on-board communication, territorial waters, channel spacing, frequency arrangement, UHF

Abbreviations/Glossary

Ch. Channel number

DCS: Digital coded squelch

FSK Frequency-shift keying modulation

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

*a)* that there is a need to describe the characteristics of equipment for on-board vessel communications in the bands between 450 and 470 MHz;

*b)* that changes have recently been made to the frequency availability,

recommends

**1** that transmitters and receivers used in the maritime mobile service for on-board vessel communications in the bands between 450 and 470 MHz should conform to the technical characteristics shown in Annex 1;

**2** that for analogue technology the use of continuous tone coded squelch systems or digital coded squelch (DCS) constitute an effective means of mitigating the impression of congestion to the user;

**3** that for digital technology the use of DCS or a similar operational system should be used as a way to mitigate the impression of congestion to user;

**4** that during operation, to detect whether there is an available channel for operation, it is advised that a method of listen before talk be employed as a possible mitigation technique;

**5** that ship owners when replacing or installing communications equipment upon vessels are encouraged to fit equipment using 12.5 kHz or 6.25 kHz channel spacing.

Annex 1  
  
Technical characteristics of equipment used for on-board vessel communications in the bands between 450 and 470 MHz

1 The equipment should be fitted with sufficient channels for satisfactory operation in the area of intended use.

2 The effective radiated power should be limited to the maximum required for satisfactory operations, but should in no case exceed 2 W. Wherever practicable the equipment should be fitted with a suitable device to reduce readily the output power by at least 10 dB.

3 In the case of equipment installed at a fixed point on the ship, the height of its antenna should not be more than 3.5 m above the uppermost level of the deck.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 25 kHz channels analogue technology | 12.5 kHz channels analogue technology |
| 4 | Only frequency modulation with a pre‑emphasis of 6 dB/octave (phase modulation) should be used. | Only frequency modulation with a pre‑emphasis of 6 dB/octave (phase modulation) should be used. |
| 5 | The frequency deviation corresponding to 100% modulation should approach 5 kHz as nearly as practicable. In no event should the frequency deviation exceed 5 kHz. | The frequency deviation corresponding to 100% modulation should approach 2.5 kHz as nearly as practicable. In no event should the frequency deviation exceed 2.5 kHz. |
| 6 | The frequency tolerance should be 5 parts in 106. | The frequency tolerance should be 2.5 parts in 106. |
| 7 | The audio-frequency band should be limited to 3 000 Hz. | The audio-frequency band should be limited to 2 550 Hz. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 12.5 kHz channels  digital technology | 6.25 kHz channels  digital technology |
| 8 | Only constant-envelope modulation, entitled 4FSK (Four-level frequency-shift keying modulation) should be used. | Only constant-envelope modulation, entitled 4FSK (Four-level frequency-shift keying modulation) should be used. |
| 9 | The frequency deviation is limited to ±3 024 Hz. | The frequency deviation is limited to ±1 471 Hz. |
| 10 | The maximum transmit frequency error: ±2 ppm.  The maximum time base clock drift error: ±2 ppm. | The maximum transmit frequency error: ±1.5 ppm.  The maximum time base clock drift error: ±2 ppm. |

11 Control, telemetry and other non-voice signals such as paging, should be coded in such a manner as to minimize the possibility of false response to interfering signals.The frequencies specified in § 15 below for on-board communications may be used for single frequency and two‑frequency simplex operation.

12 When used in the duplex mode the base transmitter frequency should be selected from the lower range for improved operability.

13 In general, if the use of a repeater station is required on board a ship, the frequency bands described in RR Nos. **5.287** and **5.288** should be used. The detailed duplex frequency arrangement is described in § 15 below.

14 Within territorial waters, these frequencies should be used subject to national regulations.

15 Frequencies

The frequency bands specified in RR No. **5.287** (subject to national regulations) shall be used with the following arrangement:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lower channel | | | | | |  | Upper channel | | | | | |
| 25 kHz channel | | 12.5 kHz channel | | 6.25 kHz channel | |  | 25 kHz channel | | 12.5 kHz channel | | 6.25 kHz channel | |
| Ch. | MHz | Ch. | MHz | Ch. | MHz |  | Ch. | MHz | Ch. | MHz | Ch. | MHz |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | 457.525 |  |  | 102 | 457.515625 |  | 4 | 467.525 |  |  | 202 | 467.515625 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | 457.5250 | 111 | 457.521875 |  | 21 | 467.5250 | 211 | 467.521875 |
|  |
| 112 | 457.528125 |  | 212 | 467.528125 |
|  |
| 12 | 457.5375 | 121 | 457.534375 |  | 22 | 467.5375 | 221 | 467.534375 |
|  |
| 2 | 457.550 | 122 | 457.540625 |  | 5 | 467.550 | 222 | 467.540625 |
|  |
| 13 | 457.5500 | 131 | 457.546875 |  | 23 | 467.5500 | 231 | 467.546875 |
|  |
| 132 | 457.553125 |  | 232 | 467.553125 |
|  |
| 14 | 457.5625 | 141 | 457.559375 |  | 24 | 467.5625 | 241 | 467.559375 |
|  |
| 3 | 457.575 | 142 | 457.565625 |  | 6 | 467.575 | 242 | 467.565625 |
|  |
| 15 | 457.5750 | 151 | 457.571875 |  | 25 | 467.5750 | 251 | 467.571875 |
|  |
| 152 | 457.578125 |  | 252 | 467.578125 |
|  |
|  |  | 161 | 457.584375 |  |  |  | 261 | 467.584375 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

NOTE – The repeater station should be used as pairs of lower channel and upper channel with frequency separation exactly 10 MHz (e.g. Ch. 2 and Ch. 5, Ch. 11 and Ch. 21).

Interference from digital system to existing analogue system is concerned. Administrations are invited to consider the impact of analogue communication especially those operating lower channel.

1. \* This Recommendation should be brought to the attention of the International Maritime Organization and the International Maritime Radio Committee. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)