



MALTA COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY


# The Assignment Process of Radio Spectrum in VHF band for Terrestrial Digital Audio Broadcasting Services in Malta

A notice of update to Decision MCA/D/22-4460 first published on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022

MCA Reference MCA/O/22-4684

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 (+356) 2133 6840    [info@mca.org.mt](mailto:info@mca.org.mt)    [www.mca.org.mt](http://www.mca.org.mt)

 Valletta Waterfront, Pinto Wharf, Floriana FRN1913, Malta

## Update

As a result of a coordination agreement signed, between the administrations of Malta and Italy and in force since 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022, Decision MCA/D/21-4460 is updated to reflect these changes.

All page numbers listed in this note refer to the originally published document.

### Change 1:

In Page 19 (of 37) Section titled “Non-interference conditions related to the use of remaining channels” currently reading as:

#### Non-interference conditions related to the use of remaining channels

While the remaining channels are not registered under the GE06 Agreement, Malta has secured a coordination agreement with Italy. This agreement establishes a coordination zone that includes the territory of Malta and Gozo and all the provinces of Sicily, excluding the provinces of Palermo and Messina, as indicated in Annex 4. This agreement provides Malta with the rights to use spectrum subject to the condition that any signal originating from Malta carried over the channels listed under this agreement does not reach any land-based territory beyond the coordination zone with a field strength greater than the coordination trigger field strength<sup>7</sup> as defined in the GE06 Agreement and established at 12dB $\mu$ V/m for T-DAB falling in Band III.

A network will be considered compliant with the requirements of the coordination agreement between Malta and if the simulated received signal levels do not exceed the established 12dB $\mu$ V/m outside the coordination area.

The Authority may, at its discretion, complement the information obtained from simulation by using data derived from an existing network, wherever and however such is available.

#### **shall be deleted and replaced as follows:**

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<sup>7</sup> The coordination trigger field strength is defined as the Field-strength which, when exceeded, determines that coordination is required.

## Non-interference conditions related to the use of remaining channels

The GE06 Agreement establishes that, to avoid cross-border harmful interference, radio transmissions belonging to T-DAB networks should not exceed a maximum field strength level of 12dB $\mu$ V/m in any land-based territory of other countries. Such a field strength level holds unless an agreement is reached amongst the concerned countries. The GE06 requirement applies to all radio spectrum described in Table 1 except for channel 12A. Therefore, signals originating from Malta carried over these frequencies must not reach any land-based territory of other countries with a field strength greater than 12dB $\mu$ V/m.

Malta and Italy signed an agreement that allows for the relaxation of the permissible received field strength while ensuring that the transmissions of T-DAB signals from one country do not cause harmful cross-border interference to transmissions in the other country. The terms of this agreement as applicable to Malta are listed hereunder and form part of the requirements that all T-DAB network operators shall observe.

- a) The T-DAB transmission network in Malta may operate any network configuration provided that the following radio transmission conditions are respected:
- (i) For those channels<sup>2</sup> shared with other regions in Sicily, a restriction of received field strength level as listed in table 3 below shall apply.

<b>Lot</b>	<b>Block</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Maximum permissible field strength in dB<math>\mu</math>V/m</b>
Lot 1	6A	181.168 – 182.704	37.6
Lot 2	6C	184.592 – 186.128	38.00
Lot 3	9C	205.584 – 207.120	39.40
Lot 5	12C	226.592 – 228.128	40.66

- (ii) There shall be no restriction on the signal strength received within the co-ordination zone for those channels<sup>3</sup> which are not shared with any other region in Sicily.
- b) The agreement between Malta and Italy strictly applies within the coordination zone as described in Annex 6 of this Decision. This agreement does not waive the restrictions on the maximum signal field strength received in other territories, and therefore, the received signal field strength limitation of 12dB $\mu$ V/m still applies to other land-based territories.

The Authority shall, whenever necessary, evaluate whether a network poses any risks towards cross-border interference. This evaluation shall be carried out primarily using network simulations using the procedure established in Annex 2.

In addition, the Authority may, at its discretion, complement the information obtained from simulation by using data derived from an existing network, wherever and however such information is available.

A network will be considered not to pose risks towards cross-border interference when:-

<sup>2</sup> Channel blocks 6A, 6C, 9C and 12C

<sup>3</sup> Channel block 12D

- (i) the simulated received field strength levels within the coordination zone between Italy and Malta do not exceed the established field strength level according to a(i) and a(ii) above; and
- (ii) the simulated received field strength level in neighbouring land-based territories beyond the coordination zone between Italy and Malta does not exceed 12dB $\mu$ V/m.

### **Additional Changes**

The following additional changes, are noted below:

Tables 3 to 5, together with their respective references within the text are renumbered as follows:

- a) Table 3 in pg 30 is renumbered as Table 4
- b) Table 4 in pg 31 is renumbered as Table 5
- c) Table 5 in page 33 is renumbered as Table 6

Footnotes 8 to 12 are renumbered as follows

- a) Footnote 8 in pg 21 renumbered to 11
- b) Footnote 9 in pg 24 renumbered to 12
- c) Footnote 10 in pg 25 renumbered to 13
- d) Footnote 11 in pg 34 renumbered to 14
- e) Footnote 12 in pg 36 renumbered to 15.



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