

**Proposal for the IARU Region 1 Committee  
C4 Interim Meeting  
April 2019 - Vienna**

Subject:	<b>Preservation of telegraphy sub-bands on HF IARU band plans</b>
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### **Introduction**

One of the practices that continues to develop among amateur radio is low power emissions, so called QRP. This practice allows radio amateurs to practice their art by finding the right frequencies in view of the radio wave propagation, to improve the aeriels of their station and the capacities of their receivers, as well as their operating skills.

In addition, the use of low power makes it more accessible because it simplifies the construction of transmitters by radio amateurs and is therefore a gateway for novice radio amateurs. In the increasingly urbanized areas where radio operators live and operate, the use of low power transmissions also limits the interference with systems, unfortunately not always to the EMC standards used in the near vicinity of the stations.

Finally, the use of low power is in perfect harmony with the regulations that regulate the practice of amateur radio, regulations that impose the use of minimum power to allow the link between the stations.

### **Background**

The very recent interest for digital modes sometimes leads to a intensive use of the frequencies of the sub-bands dedicated to digital modes, or even during specific activities like international contests, a quasi-congestion.

IARU has always supported changes in the practices of radio amateurs to allow the reasoned use of frequencies allocated to radio amateurs and the respect of all practices. In this perspective, recent developments in HF band plans have allowed more frequencies to be allocated to digital stations.

Telegraphy is a specific mode for radio amateurs, its history and the fact that the amateur radio service is the only service of the ITU that commonly uses this mode and thus preserves the heritage left by our elders.

Telegraphy is also a particular mode in that this mode is very easily scrambled by stations transmitting with other modes of transmission. That is why in its wisdom, IARU has always identified a sub-band reserved for telegraphy in order to preserve this mode.

Very recently, the evolution of HF band plans, with the aim of increasing the portions allocated to digital modes, saw the restriction (on the 30m and 80m band in 2016) or the suppression (on the 60m band) of sub-bands reserved for telegraphy. These decisions understandable by their purpose nevertheless strongly affect the activity of low-power telegraphy, especially on the 60m band.

The vast majority of digital mode users use a computer to generate the digital signal that is emitted. This computer also allows "listening" frequencies. Now a telegraphic emission, especially using a weak power, is only very difficult to identify by this computer. The digital mode operator can then unknowingly transmit on a frequency used by a telegraph operator and even interrupt its connection.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended to guarantee on the HF bands allocated to radio amateurs a portion of the band, called sub-band, which will be reserved for the sole practice of telegraphy.

Considering the extension of the sub-bands dedicated to the digital traffic needed in the future, it is recommended that the next extensions not be done only to the detriment of the sub-band reserved for telegraphy, but that the efforts be distributed among the different sub-bands, reserving a portion for low-bandwidth digital modes below the beacon frequencies and a new sub-band allowed to larger-bandwidth digital modes above them.

Example :

Telegraphy	Low bandwidth digital modes	Beacons	Larger bandwidth digital modes	Phone
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