

(EU) No 1079/2012 – 8.33 kHz Voice Channel Spacing

CIVIL AVIATION DIRECTORATE - ANS & ADR Unit

Transport Malta, Vjal I-Avjazzjoni, Luqa LQA 9023 Malta. Tel:+356 2555 5653 Fax:+356 2123 9278 info.tm@transport.gov.mt www.transport.gov.mt

Commission Implementing Regulation No 1079/2012 of 16th November 2012 laying down requirements for voice channel spacing for the Single European Sky.

Scope

The purpose of this Information Notice is to provide awareness, guidance and information to airspace users, Aerodrome and Air Navigation Service providers, AOC holders, the General Aviation community and aviation frequency users of the further deployment of air-ground voice communications based on 8.33 kHz channel spacing below FL195. Attached to this Notice is a data gathering questionnaire, Annex A. This data will be used to assess the status of local implementation and to study any feasibility options available. Users of the aviation frequency spectrum are encouraged to fill in and submit.

Background Information

Radio Frequency Spectrum is a scarce and finite resource. Europe is experiencing increasingly long delays to satisfy frequency demands in the aeronautical mobile radio communication service band (i.e. 117.975 to 137 MHz). Taking into account the limitations for increasing the allocated spectrum and/or frequency reuse, the main means to overcome this frequency congestion in the medium to long term is to reduce the spacing between channels from 25 kHz to 8.33 kHz, thereby fitting a greater number of channels into the existing frequency band.

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1079/2012 (VCS Regulation) amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 657/2013 of 10 July 2013 lays down requirements for the coordinated introduction of air-ground voice communications based on 8.33kHz channel spacing. It extends to the lower airspace (below FL195) the requirements, covered in Regulation (EC) No 1265/2007, for the coordinated introduction of air-ground based voice communications based on 8.33kHz channel spacing. This Regulation applies to all voice communication radios operating in the aeronautical VHF band, to flight data processing systems serving general air traffic and to all flights operating as general air traffic and consists of interoperability, performance and deployment obligations, with relevant application dates for ANSP's, operators and other users of radios, for Member States and for the Network Manager. A copy of this Regulation may be found at the following link:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:320:0014:0024:EN:PDF>

Applicability

As from 01 January 2018 an airspace user operator shall not operate an aircraft in airspace where carriage of radio is required (in the airspace in which EU Member States are providing air traffic services) unless the aircraft radio has the 8.33kHz channel spacing capability. In accordance with the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1079/2012 (VCS Regulation), EU Member States shall ensure that by 31 December 2018, at the latest, all frequency assignments used for aeronautical VHF communications are converted to 8.33kHz channel spacing with the exceptions of the assignments that remain in 25kHz.

This requirement does not apply to frequency assignments:

(a) that will remain in 25 kHz channel spacing on the following frequencies:

(EU) No 1079/2012 – 8.33 kHz Voice Channel Spacing

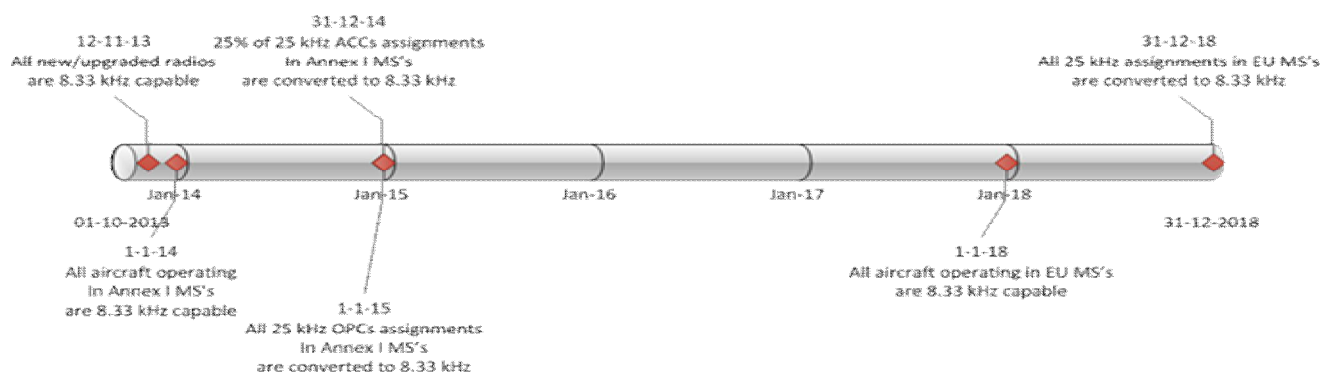
CIVIL AVIATION DIRECTORATE - ANS & ADR Unit

Transport Malta, Vjal I-Avjazzjoni, Luqa LQA 9023 Malta. Tel:+356 2555 5653 Fax:+356 2123 9278 info.tm@transport.gov.mt www.transport.gov.mt

- (i) the emergency frequency (121.5 MHz);
- (ii) the auxiliary frequency for search and rescue operations (123.1 MHz); (iii) the VHF digital link (VDL) frequencies (136.725 MHz, 136.775 MHz, 136.825 MHz, 136.875 MHz, 136.925 MHz and 136.975 MHz);
- (iv) the aircraft communications addressing and reporting system (ACARS) frequencies (131.525 MHz, 131.725 MHz and 131.825 MHz);

(b) where offset carrier operation within a 25 kHz channel spacing is utilised.

Implementing Rule (EU) IR 1079/2012 milestones



General Aviation Airspace Users

The Network Manager, through its 8.33 Support to Implementation project, is engaging into increasing the awareness of the General Aviation airspace users regarding the requirements deriving from the Voice Channel Spacing Regulation (EU IR 1079/2012) with respect to 8.33kHz radio equipment mandate. A special dedicated on-line platform (<https://833radio.com/>) has been set up with the aim to provide the GA community with:

- Specific targeted information regarding the mandate
- Potential exemptions and derogations in effect within the European airspace
- Information regarding funding opportunities for radio equipment

Therefore if you are part of the GA community, own an aircraft, are associated in a GA organization or an aero-club, you are encouraged to register.

Questions

Should you have any queries you may address them to the '8.33 National Coordinator' on the e-mail address provided below:

civil.aviation@transport.gov.mt

Annex A

8.33kHz VCS Data Information Sheet

Part A: Details

Name of Owner or Organisation	
Contact information	
Type of Activity	
Date	Signature

Part B: Frequency Assignments

Part B applies to users assigned frequencies to transmit on the aviation frequency spectrum (117.975 to 137 MHz)

No. of frequency assignments already converted to 8.33 channel spacing following IR1079 requirements		
No. of frequency assignments remaining to be converted		
List of frequencies in use: (25kHz and 8.33kHz)		

(EU) No 1079/2012 – 8.33 kHz Voice Channel Spacing

CIVIL AVIATION DIRECTORATE - ANS & ADR Unit

Transport Malta, Vjal I-Avjazzjoni, Luqa LQA 9023 Malta. Tel:+356 2555 5653 Fax:+356 2123 9278 info.tm@transport.gov.mt www.transport.gov.mt

Part C: Ground Stations

Part C applies to users in possession of Ground Radio Stations transmitting on the aviation frequency (117.975 to 137 MHz)

No. of ground radios	
No. of ground radios to be upgraded/replaced	
No. of ground radios remaining in 25kHz	
Planned dates for upgrade/replacement of remaining ground civil use stations	

Part D: Airborne radios installed (9H registered aircraft only)

Part D is addressed to all aircraft operators and owners, aeroclubs or schools with 9H registered aircraft

No. of General Air Traffic (GAT) aircraft in your fleet	
No. of General Air Traffic (GAT) aircraft equipped with 8.33VCS capable radio	
No. of General Air Traffic (GAT) aircraft to be equipped with 8.33VCS capable radio	
Planned date for airborne radio upgrades/replacements, if available	

Details of aircraft not equipped with 8.33 VCS capable radios should be provided hereunder:

Aircraft Registration	Aircraft Type	Radio Equipment