

2026 FCC Rules 60 meter band Amateur Radio Service

[Selected excerpts pertaining only to the 60 meter band, from the Final Rules published in the Federal Register. Source: Federal Register, Vol. 91, No. 9, Wednesday, January 14, 2026, Rules and Regulations, pp 1405-1433. pdf download 12 Feb 2026. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2026-01-14/pdf/2026-00587.pdf> Public Domain. Text-only transcript: HFLINK 2026. file: 2026_FCC_Rules_60_meter_band_Amateur_Radio_Service_2026FEB13b.pdf]

Federal Communications Commission.
Marlene Dortch, Secretary.

Final Rules

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Parts 2, 25, 74, 78, 87, 90, 97, and 101.

[ET Docket No. 23-120; RM-11785; FCC 25-60; FR ID 323350]

Implementation of the Final Acts of the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2015) (WRC-15), Other Allocation Issues, and Related Rule Updates

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

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SUMMARY: In this document, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) modifies the United States Table of Frequency Allocations (U.S. Table) in the Commission's rules to implement certain spectrum allocation decisions from the International Telecommunication Union's World Radiocommunication Conference's 2015 Final Acts, including those for amateur radio, satellite services, and for aural broadcast auxiliary and television broadcast auxiliary stations by revising the Commission's rules. These changes provide for increased domestic utilization of a range of spectrum in both satellite and terrestrial contexts.

DATES: This final rule is effective February 13, 2026.

Ordering Clauses

It is ordered that, pursuant to sections 1, 4(i), 4(j), 7, 301, 303(c), 303(f), and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i), 154(j), 157, 301, 303(c), 303(f), and 303(r), the Order is adopted. It is further ordered that the amendments of parts 2, 25, 74, 78, 87, 90, 97 and 101 of the Commission's rules, as set forth in Appendix A, are adopted, effective thirty (30) days after publication in the Federal Register.

Synopsis

Introduction

By this document the Commission amends the United States Table of Frequency Allocations (U.S. Table) in the Commission's rules to implement certain radiofrequency (RF) allocation decisions in the Final Acts of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15 Final Acts), make other allocation changes in the U.S. Table that are not related to WRC-15 Final Acts implementation, and revise parts 2, 25, 74, 78, 87, 90, 97, and 101 of the rules to reflect the allocation changes.

In this document, the Commission implements certain spectrum allocation decisions from the WRC-15 Final Acts, which were proposed in the WRC-15 Notice, including those for amateur radio, satellite services, and for aural broadcast auxiliary and television broadcast auxiliary stations. The Commission's decisions are generally divided into space and terrestrial issues, along with other matters, as follows.

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Background.

Terrestrial Issues

Allocate the 5351.5–5366.5 kHz (60- meter) band to the amateur service on a secondary basis; continue to make available on a secondary basis the four existing channels outside of the 5351.5– 5366.5 kHz band; and establish other operating guidelines for amateur use of the band.

Terrestrial Issues.

Amateur Service in the 5351.5–5366.5 kHz Band

In this section, the Commission makes allocation decisions regarding amateur use of the 5351.5–5366.5 kHz band and the four discrete channels at 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz that are outside of the band, as well as the technical and operational characteristics amateurs must adhere to when utilizing the band and the four discrete channels. The WRC-15 Final Acts allocated the 5351.5–5366.5 kHz band to the amateur service on a secondary basis in all ITU regions and generally set a maximum radiated power at 15 watts equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP), equivalent to 9.15 watts effective radiated power (ERP). In the WRC-15 Notice, the Commission sought comment on a number of proposals affecting amateur use of this band, including whether to allocate the 5351.5–5366.5 kHz band to the Amateur Radio Service on a secondary basis, whether the amateur service should keep the existing four channels at 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz they use that are outside of the new allocation (known by amateurs as the 60-meter band), whether use and power limitations should be applied to the band, and the appropriate station class for use of the band, among others. Under current Commission rules, the 5275–5450 kHz band is allocated for Federal/non-Federal shared use to the fixed service on a primary basis and the mobile except aeronautical mobile service on a secondary basis. Footnote US23 provides the amateur service with a secondary allocation on five discrete channels—each with a maximum bandwidth of 2.8 kilohertz and centered on frequencies 5332, 5348, 5358.5, 5373, and 5405 kHz. Current Commission rules also allow stations in the amateur service to transmit on these frequencies with a maximum ERP of 100 W peak envelope power (PEP)—over ten times more powerful than WRC-15’s EIRP limit. In 2017, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), filed a Petition for Rulemaking asking the Commission to implement the amateur allocations provided for in the WRC-15 Final Acts, to retain the four amateur service channels outside of the band, to authorize amateurs General Class or above to use the contiguous band, and to retain the maximum ERP limit of 100 W PEP for use in the new band. NTIA recommends that the Commission conforms footnote US23 to the WRC-15 Final Acts by allocating the 5351.5– 5366.5 kHz band to the amateur service on a secondary basis, removing the four existing amateur channels outside of this proposed new amateur band, and restricting the maximum radiated power of amateur operations in the band to 15 W EIRP (9.15 W ERP).

Allocation.

For the reasons stated below, the Commission modifies footnote US23 and part 97 of the Commission’s rules to implement the new international allocation at 5351.5–5366.5 kHz, retain the existing four channels at 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz that are outside of the new allocation, and do not restrict the existing secondary allocation for the existing four channels to disaster response operations. The Commission first sought comment on the proposal to modify footnote US23 and part 97 of the Commission’s rules to implement the new international allocation at 5351.5– 5366.5 kHz and whether to retain the existing four channels at 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz that are outside of the new allocation. While commenters support the new international allocation, they are

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generally opposed to the removal of the four discrete channels outside of the new allocation.

A commenter states that the "propagation characteristics of the 60-meter band allow for more reliable communications over medium distances than other amateur bands such as the 80-meter or 40-meter bands." Another commenter states that the "60-meter band has proven to be immensely valuable in facilitating public service initiatives. Its strategic positioning between the 80-meter and 40-meter amateur bands ensures reliable signal propagation to specific geographic areas, particularly during temporal and solar cycle fluctuations." Commenters generally aver that the amateur radio community requires access to a range of frequencies in order to achieve long- distance propagation by refracting high frequency communications off of the ionosphere. Commenters additionally note that, depending on atmospheric conditions, signals transmitting at lower frequencies, such as the 3500-4000 kHz band, can be absorbed by the ionosphere. Conversely, there are atmospheric conditions such that operation at higher frequencies, for example the 7000-7300 kHz range, could result in signals that pass through the ionosphere completely, avoiding the desired refraction necessary for long distance reception. Multiple commenters thus took issue with the Commission's statement in the WRC-15 Notice, which characterized the internationally harmonized spectrum options at 3 and 7 MHz as being sufficient for amateur operations, with most commenters reiterating the different propagation characteristics of the bands.

In 2003, when the Commission originally granted amateurs a secondary allocation in the 5250-5400 kHz range, the Commission stated its belief that frequencies within that range might be useful for completing disaster communications links at times when the 3 and 7 MHz bands were not available due to ionospheric conditions. The Commission continues to hold that opinion and thus allocate the 5351.5- 5366.5 kHz band to the amateur radio service by modifying footnote US23 and part 97 of the Commission's rules. Additionally, the Commission retains the existing four channels at 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz that are outside of the new allocation for continued amateur use.

The Commission also sought comment on whether it should alternatively only allow amateur access to the four discrete channels at 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz in response to disasters. Amateurs participating in the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) or SHARED RESOURCES (SHARES) High Frequency (HF) Radio programs during disasters or the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) or the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) emergency communications programs were invited to share their proposals for whether the existing channels should continue to be used and under what conditions. One commenter states that utilization of the 60-meter band channels allows the amateur community to receive up to date emergency communications from MARS stations. On the other hand, another commenter states that use of the 60-meter band should be conditioned upon use for practice drills in MARS, SHARES, ARES, and RACES and that non-emergency use should not be allowed. However, most commenters on this issue do not support restricting the band to emergency use and some state that, while emergency use of the band by qualified amateurs remains important, non-emergency use gives amateurs an important frequency band for continued communications. The Commission finds that restricting the existing allocation to disaster response would deprive the amateur community of an important means of communication, especially in instances where ionospheric propagation characteristics at alternative high frequency bands render them potentially unusable.

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Channelization and Permitted Uses.

Consistent with its proposal in the WRC-15 Notice, the Commission does not require the use of channelization or sub-bands in the new internationally harmonized amateur allocation. In the WRC-15 Notice, the Commission stated that, due to the wide variety of potential applications and the need to protect other communications, dividing the band into channels or sub-bands would lead to inefficient spectrum use. The Commission also proposed that, due to the propensity of some wideband digital emissions creating spectrum sharing problems, a maximum emission bandwidth of 2.8 kilohertz should be imposed on amateur operations in the band. The Commission asked commenters whether there were any other limits or technical rule changes necessary to ensure reliable and efficient use of the band. Most commenters support the Commission's proposal not to channelize the new international allocation, with one stating that channelization in the amateur radio service is limiting due to the varying nature of emissions depending on type (e.g., continuous wave, phone, or digital). Another commenter, however, supports the notion of channelization, stating that the new 15 kilohertz band can be neatly channelized into five, 3-kilohertz channels, which would help to maintain order by letting users know where transmissions must occur. Regarding other technical proposals for the band, another commenter argues against the use of continuous wave (CW) transmissions, stating that they are obsolete and have not been used for primary communications in other radio services for years. On the other hand, another commenter argues that the new 15 kilohertz band should not be channelized and should be restricted to narrow modes only, such as CW and digital, with no phone mode allowed on the new band. One commenter expresses support for the Commission's proposal not to channelize the new 15 kilohertz band and states that any unencrypted digital operation should be allowed as long as its emission bandwidth does not exceed 2.8 kilohertz, which the commenter maintains is necessary to preserve spectrum in this narrow band. Other commenters also support the Commission proposal to limit emission bandwidth to 2.8 kilohertz within the new band.

Due to the limited contiguous allocation of 15 kilohertz, the Commission recognizes that amateur radio operators will need flexibility to utilize the new allocation. Thus, the Commission does not require the use of channelization or sub-bands in the new allocation at 5351.5-5366.5 kHz. The Commission also carries forward the requirement of section 97.303(h) of the Commission's rules, currently applicable to the discrete channels at 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz, which stipulates that amateur operators shall ensure that emission bandwidth not exceed 2.8 kilohertz, which the Commission also agrees will preserve access to the limited spectrum in this secondary allocation. Amateurs utilizing the discrete channels located at 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz should already be familiar with these requirements and they have been quite successful in the mitigation of interference to primary users. The Commission found the comments that favored channelization to be unpersuasive, due to both the record reflecting substantial opposition to channelization and the fact that narrow band modes of operation allow a multitude of signals to transmit on a single 2.8 kilohertz channel. Station Class. The Commission limits use of the existing amateur allocations at 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz and the new amateur allocation at 5351.5- 5366.5 kHz to amateur radio operators holding a General Class license or higher. The Commission proposed in the WRC-15 Notice that utilization of the new international allocation at 5351.5-5366.5 kHz should be limited to amateurs holding a General Class license or higher. The Commission also sought comment on its proposal that if it maintains the four discrete channels at 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz outside of the international allocation, should they too be

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limited to General Class licensees or higher. Commenters support the Commission's proposal to limit use of the new 15 kilohertz band to General Class licensees or above, with one stating that it is necessary "due to the narrowness of the band, the need to calculate radiated power limits for the antenna configuration, and the need to understand the requirements ensuring that primary users are protected from harmful interference." ARRL also suggests that use of the new international allocation and the four channels outside of that allocation should be limited to General Class licensees or higher, as "[e]ntry-level radio amateurs may not have the requisite experience to operate in accordance with the interference avoidance protocols with which much more experienced licensees will be proficient."

The Commission agrees with commenters that utilization of the new international allocation at 5351.5- 5366.5 kHz should be limited to those holding a General Class license or above. The Commission believes that the need to protect the important Federal operations in this band requires a higher level understanding of power limitations, radiocommunications technology, operating practices, and applicable regulations. Those holding General Class licenses or above will have a better understanding of these requirements. Further, this logic extends to the four discrete channels that are outside of the 5351.5-5366.5 kHz band, and the Commission limits utilization of these frequencies to those holding a General Class license or higher. Power. For the reasons stated below, the Commission does not allow the amateur community to utilize the new international allocation at 5351.5- 5366.5 kHz at the requested 100 W ERP limit and adopt NTIA's proposal to limit usage of this band to 15 W EIRP, or 9.15 W ERP. Operating on a secondary basis, the amateur community must protect Federal operations in this band, and the Commission does not believe that the increased potential for harmful interference at this power limit has been fully considered at this time. Amateur access to the four discrete channels at 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz will however, continue at the same 100 W ERP limit. In the WRC-15 Notice, the Commission tentatively concluded that NTIA's recommended 15 W EIRP limit would reduce the potential of harmful interference to incumbent primary operations and that the long-range propagation capabilities of the frequencies in question would likely allow efficient communications at low- power levels. The Commission did, however, concede that there may be instances where more power is needed to deal with propagation challenges.

The Commission asked commenters seeking a power limit above the proposed 15 W EIRP to explain the appropriate power limit for the 60-meter band, if higher power levels should only be maintained during emergency drills/ response, how the power limit should be defined in the Commission's rules (EIRP, ERP, or transmitter output power), and whether antenna limitations were necessary.

In line with ARRL's Petition for Rulemaking and proposed retention of the 100 W ERP limit for both the 15 kilohertz band at 5351.5-5366.5 kHz and the four discrete channels at 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz outside of the new allocation, most commenters argue against the proposed power reduction. Many point out that Canada has already enacted the proposals ARRL has put forth in this proceeding, namely retention of the 100 W ERP limit for the 60-meter band, and that identical allocations and power limits would facilitate harmonious communications throughout most of North America. Commenters argue that the 100 W ERP limit currently in place for the 60-meter band is necessary to maintain reliable communications, while others state that the current power limit is necessary for emergency communications when propagation on other bands is

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limited by solar and earth conditions. Others argue for an even larger power increase, asking the Commission to consider a 500 W ERP limit, "since lower frequencies are more susceptible to D- layer absorption and emergency communications will still need to be heard, especially in high latitude locations like Alaska." Consistent with most commenters, however, is the contention that the current use of the 100 W ERP limit on the 60-meter band has not been shown to cause harmful interference to the primary users of the band, both in assigned channels and through spurious emissions outside of the allocation. Some commenters argue that, due to the use of newer and more efficient digital modes, weak signals are not an impediment to sending information and the 15 W EIRP limit proposed by the NTIA is sufficient. Others, however, state that amateur, non-emergency operations conducted in the four discrete channels outside of the new allocation should be restricted to the 15 W EIRP limit and that, aside from practices and drills, these channelized frequencies should not be used by the amateur community unless an actual emergency exists, at which point the 100 W ERP limit would be appropriate. Another commenter states that stipulating power levels based on scenario (emergency/non-emergency, drills, etc ...) would overcomplicate the issue. Lastly, many commenters oppose the Commission's proposal to define the power limit in terms of EIRP to be consistent with the WRC-15 recommendation, with one commenter stating that EIRP measurements are applicable to important communication links and multi-node networks—not amateur radio. Another commenter further states that the measuring standard should remain as ERP, instead of EIRP, as the ERP standard is widely used and understood in the amateur radio service. One commenter argues that if an appropriate power standard such as EIRP or ERP is used, then no antenna limitations are necessary.

The Commission agrees with those commenters that support the proposed 15 W EIRP (9.15 W ERP) for the new international allocation at 5351.5– 5366.5 kHz, in line with the WRC-15 Final Acts and the Commission's tentative conclusion in the WRC-15 Notice. However, for consistency in part 97 and the power specification for the discrete channels the Commission is leaving in place, the Commission specifies the power limit as 9.15 W ERP, which is equivalent to 15 W EIRP.

Additionally, as stated above, allowing amateur operations in this band while fully protecting incumbent primary Federal operations is the Commission's priority, and even intermittent interference in this band could jeopardize important Federal operations. Also, the long range propagation characteristics of this band should allow for efficient communications even at low-power levels. Given, however, that ARRL's Petition for Rulemaking remains open at this time, the Commission expects the Commission may address any necessary power adjustments for the new 15 kilohertz international allocation in that proceeding. The Commission also allows continued amateur access to the four discrete channels at 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz at the prevailing 100 W ERP, which was supported by the majority of commenters and which has not posed any interference issues. Further, the Commission does not stipulate power levels based on scenario (emergency/non-emergency), as this would add unnecessary regulatory complexity. The Commission also continues to use ERP as the measuring standard—as most amateurs are familiar with this standard—and the Commission does not adopt antenna limitations, as the Commission believe that a radiated power limit would ensure that excess power is not used.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission amends 47 CFR parts 2, 25, 74, 78, 87, 90, 97, and 101 as follows:

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PART 2—FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS AND RADIO TREATY MATTERS; GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

§ 2.105 United States Table of Frequency Allocations.

(d) * * *

(6) The footnote references that appear in the United States Table below the allocated service or services apply to more than one of the allocated services, or to the whole of the allocation concerned.

(7) The footnote references that appear to the right of the name of a service are applicable only to that particular service.

The revisions and additions read as follows:

§ 2.106 Table of Frequency Allocations.

[FOOTNOTE] (23) US23 The band 5351.5–5366.5 kHz (60 m band) is allocated to the amateur service on a secondary basis. In the band 5330.5–5406.4 kHz, the assigned frequencies 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz are allocated to the amateur service on a secondary basis. Amateur service use of these four frequencies is restricted to a maximum effective radiated power of 100 W PEP and to the following emission types and designators: phone (2K80J3E), data (2K80J2D), RTTY (60H0J2B), and CW (150HA1A). Amateur service use of the 60m band frequencies must meet the requirements in part 97 of these rules. Amateur operators using the data and RTTY emissions must exercise care to limit the length of transmissions so as to avoid causing harmful interference to Federal stations.

PART 97—AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

■ 17. The authority citation for part 97 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 151–155, 301–609, unless otherwise noted.

■ 18. Amend § 97.301 by revising the entry for the "60 m" wavelength band in the table in paragraphs (b) through (d) to read as follows:

§ 97.301 Authorized frequency bands.

(b) * * *

Wavelength band: 60 m

MHz: 5.3515–5.3665 [ITU-R1, ITU-R2, ITU-R3]

Sharing requirements see § 97.303 (paragraph) : (h).

(c) * * *

Wavelength band: 60 m

MHz: 5.3515–5.3665 [ITU-R1, ITU-R2, ITU-R3]

Sharing requirements see § 97.303 (paragraph) : (h).

(d) * * *

Wavelength band: 60 m

MHz: 5.3515–5.3665 [ITU-R1, ITU-R2, ITU-R3]

Sharing requirements see § 97.303 (paragraph) : (h).

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- 19. Amend § 97.303 by revising paragraph (h) to read as follows:

§ 97.303 Frequency sharing requirements.

(h) Amateur stations transmitting on frequencies in the 60 m band must not cause harmful interference to, and must accept interference from, stations authorized by:

- (1) The United States (NTIA and FCC) and other nations in the fixed service; and
- (2) Other nations in the mobile except aeronautical mobile service.
- (3) In the 5330.5–5406.4 kHz band (60m band), amateur stations may transmit only in the 5351.5–5366.5 kHz band and on the four center frequencies specified in the table below. For the discrete channels, control operators of stations transmitting phone, data, and RTTY emissions (emission designators 2K80J3E, 2K80J2D, and 60H0J2B, respectively) may set the carrier frequency 1.5 kHz below the center frequency as specified in the table below. For CW emissions (emission designator 150HA1A), the carrier frequency is set to the center frequency. For all 60 m spectrum, Amateur operators shall ensure that their emissions do not occupy more than 2.8 kHz.

60 M band frequencies (kHz)

Carrier	Center
5330.5	5332.0
5346.5	5348.0
5371.5	5373.0
5403.5	5405.0

- 20. Amend § 97.305 by revising the entry for the "60 m" wavelength band in the table in paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 97.305 Authorized emission types.

- (c) * * *
(3) * * *
(iii) * * *

Wavelength band HF: (iii) 60 m

Frequencies: 5.332, 5.348, 5.3515-5.3665, 5.373, 5.405 MHz.

Emission types authorized: Phone, RTTY, data

Standards see § 97.307, paragraph(s) : (f)(14).

- 21. Amend § 97.307 by revising paragraph (f)(14) to read as follows:

§ 97.307 Emission standards.

(f) * * *

(14) In the 60 m band:

- (i) A station may transmit only phone, RTTY, data, and CW emissions. RTTY or data emissions must meet the digital code specifications listed in § 97.309. Emissions must not exceed a bandwidth of 2.8 kilohertz.
- (ii) The control operator of a station transmitting data or RTTY emissions must exercise care to limit the length of transmissions so as not to cause harmful interference to

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United States Government stations.

- 22. Amend § 97.313 by revising paragraphs [...] (i) to read as follows:

§ 97.313 Transmitter power standards.

(i) 60 m band power requirements: No station may transmit on the frequencies 5.332, 5.348, 5.373, and 5.405 MHz in the 60 m band with a radiated power exceeding 100 W ERP. No station may transmit in the 5.3515–5.3665 MHz band with a radiated power exceeding 9.15 W ERP. For the purpose of computing ERP, the transmitter PEP will be multiplied by the antenna gain relative to a half-wave dipole antenna. A half-wave dipole antenna will be presumed to have a gain of 1 (0 dBd). Licensees using other antennas must maintain in their station records either the antenna manufacturer's data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain.

[End text transcript of selected excerpts.]