



IARU Region 2 Monitoring System

What is the IARU Monitoring System?

Briefly, the IARU Monitoring System (MS) is an informal organization of volunteers whose aim is to remove from amateur bands radio signals of non-amateur stations causing harmful interference to our service.

To eliminate them, you first need to monitor and identify the signals. This task comprises the core work of the MS and involves the voluntary efforts of many amateurs around the world. There are never enough volunteers to report all the intrusions and that is why we need more participants every day.

There are many types of intruders: military or diplomatic communications, shortwave broadcasters, "pirates" who illegally operate radio stations for personal or commercial communications and, in some cases, spurious or harmonic transmissions of improperly adjusted legal transmitters.

After a source of interference has been fully identified and reported, the IARU formally requests ITU to have it removed. In practice, the National Coordinators of the IARU Monitoring System, through the National Society of each country, contact their national telecommunications administration to take the necessary measures to end the intrusion, or deals with emissions from outside, communicate through the official channels to the administration of the foreign country responsible for the intrusive station.

Only national governments can enforce radio regulations. In one way or another, it seeks to ensure that all countries adhere to the International Frequency Allocations of ITU that govern the use of the radio spectrum. The Monitoring System accomplishes its objectives by coordinating and facilitating the exchange of relevant technical information between the member societies of the IARU and encouraging compliance with the radio standards applicable by the national telecommunications administrations.

Are there exceptions to the rules?

Of course. In some countries, our bands are shared with other services. For example, the 20-meter band (in the range 14250 - 14350 KHz) is also used by the Fixed Service, which provides point-to-point telecommunications; The band 7100-7300 KHz is exclusive to radio amateurs only in ITU Region 2, since the 7200-7300 kHz segment is used by the Broadcasting Service in Regions 1 and 3; and the 80-meter band is also assigned to a variety of radio services, in addition to ours.

Depending on its location, a non-amateur station operating in one of these bands could be legitimate and could not be called an "intruder".

Thus, it is sometimes necessary to consider the various international and national frequency allocations before deciding whether a particular source of interference is actually an intruder or not.

The HF bands assigned worldwide to the Amateur Service by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) are: 7000 - 7100 KHz, 14000 - 14250 KHz, 21000 - 21450 KHz, 28000 - 29700 KHz. ***Any non-amateur station transmitting a signal in these bands is an intruder.***

Recent successes

The IARU Monitoring System has had a number of notable recent successes.

A multiplexed Russian military teletype signal that had occupied the frequency of 14,126 kHz in the 20-meter band for several years, finally moved after a concerted campaign of complaints by European amateur societies; A Canadian transhorizon radar signal that operated for several months in the 80-meter band ceased in its interference after the intervention of the communications administration of that country, the Voice of America's transmitters in the Philippines caused interference at 14,340 KHz during a few weeks, until the harmonics of its signal at 7.170 KHz were brought to the attention of the management of the station, which gave immediate solution.

These are simply some of the successful actions achieved through friendly cooperation and negotiation with the administrations involved.

Do you want to join?

No one is going to take care of our bands for us.

Would you like to help protect them and keep them free of interference from non-amateur stations?

It's easy, and it does not matter if your favorite mode is CW, SSB or digital, whether you're on the air frequently or not, if you are a beginner or have a high level of technical skill.

Monitoring System radio amateurs need only to learn some simple technical reporting procedures and terminology to search for and identify intruders, and thus help protect our amateur bands.

Frequently asked questions

Who can participate?

All amateurs, regardless of class.

The most important thing is to want to participate.

How do I join the IARU Monitoring System?

Simply send an email to the National Monitoring Coordinator of your country.

How can I collaborate?

Maybe you speak some foreign language that allows you to understand and identify an intruder, you are a good CW operator, you manage software to decode digital signals or can listen at "impossible" times ...

What do I do if I hear an "intruder"?

Listen carefully

Do not jam it!

Write down the most important facts

If you can, record a sound file

Complete the report and send it to the Coordinator

Why report an "intruder"?

Because most of them will not leave our bands on their own initiative. We have to act to make that happen. If no one complains, they will not move.

How do you fill a "Monitoring Report"?

It's very simple. There is a standard form, which is completed with frequency, date, time, mode, identification and country data of the intruder station when it is possible to determine it, and any comments of interest about the detected signal. The National Coordinator will inform you how often you should send your reports.

What should NOT be reported to the National Coordinator?

Interference produced by a plasma TV, low-energy lamps, switching sources, the electric fence of the neighboring field or reports on amateur radio operators who do not respect the band plan or make use of an incorrect language.

Is there any documentation about the Monitoring System available on the Internet?

Yes. The IARU Monitoring System has a long history and has produced a lot of good documentation on this subject. The IARU Region 2 Monitoring System Operating Handbook contains the most important information produced up to date by colleagues in the three regions. We invite you to read it.

You can help to defend our bands.

Contact your National Amateur Radio Society.