



Czech Telecommunication Office
with headquarters at Sokolovská 219, Prague 9
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Prague, 18 July 2023
Ref. ČTÚ-6 357/2023-613

On the basis of public consultation under Section 130 of the Act No. 127/2005 Coll., on electronic communications and on amendment to certain related acts (The Electronic Communications Act), as amended (hereinafter “the Act”) and under of the Act No. 500/2004 Coll., the Administrative Regulations, as amended, and on the basis of the decision of the Council of the Czech Telecommunication Office (hereinafter “the Office”) under Section 107(9)(b)(2) of the Act and in order to implement Sections 9 and 12 of the Act, the Office as the appropriate state administration body under Section 108(1)(b) of the Act hereby issues this Measure of General Nature

General Authorisation No. VO-R/7/07.2023-4
for the use of radio frequencies and for the operation
of citizen band radio stations in the 27 MHz band.

Article 1

Introductory provisions

The device operating conditions,^{1),2)} relating to the use of radio frequencies and operation of low-power transmitting radio equipment – citizen band radio stations in 27 MHz band (hereinafter “the stations”) for radio connection between natural or legal persons (hereinafter “the user”), are laid down in the Act and in this General Authorisation under Section 10(1) of the Act.³⁾

Article 2

Specific common conditions

The specific conditions related to Section 10(2)(mf) of the Act are as follows:

- (1) The station may be operated without individual authorisation for the use of radio frequencies.
- (2) The stations use the following radio frequencies:

¹⁾ Sections 73 up to 74 of the Act.

²⁾ European harmonised standards referred to in article 2(6) of this General Authorisation, applied on the basis of the Act No. 90/2016 Coll., on the assessment of conformity of stated products in case of their delivery on market, as amended, and Government Decree No. 426/2016 Coll., on the assessment of conformity of radio equipment when placed on the market, as amended.

³⁾ This General Authorisation is based on Decision of the Electronic Communications Committee (hereinafter “ECC”) No. CEPT/ECC/DEC(11)03 of 24 June 2011 on the harmonised use of frequencies for Citizens’ Band (CB) radio equipment, as amended on 17 June 2016.

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Channel No.	Frequency [MHz]	Channel No.	Frequency [MHz]	Channel No.	Frequency [MHz]	Channel No.	Frequency [MHz]
1 ⁴⁾	26.965	21	27.215	41	26.565	61	26.765
2	26.975	22	27.225	42	26.575	62	26.775
3	26.985	23 ⁴⁾	27.255	43	26.585	63	26.785
4	27.005	24 ⁴⁾	27.235	44	26.595	64	26.795
5	27.015	25 ⁴⁾	27.245	45	26.605	65	26.805
6	27.025	26	27.265	46	26.615	66 ⁴⁾	26.815
7	27.035	27	27.275	47	26.625	67	26.825
8	27.055	28	27.285	48	26.635	68 ⁴⁾	26.835
9 ⁴⁾	27.065	29	27.295	49	26.645	69 ⁴⁾	26.845
10 ⁴⁾	27.075	30	27.305	50	26.655	70	26.855
11	27.085	31	27.315	51	26.665	71 ⁴⁾	26.865
12	27.105	32	27.325	52 ⁴⁾	26.675	72	26.875
13	27.115	33	27.335	53 ⁴⁾	26.685	73	26.885
14	27.125	34	27.345	54	26.695	74	26.895
15	27.135	35	27.355	55	26.705	75	26.905
16	27.155	36	27.365	56	26.715	76 ⁴⁾	26.915
17	27.165	37	27.375	57	26.725	77 ⁴⁾	26.925
18 ⁴⁾	27.175	38	27.385	58	26.735	78 ⁴⁾	26.935
19 ⁴⁾	27.185	39	27.395	59	26.745	79	26.945
20	27.205	40	27.405	60 ⁴⁾	26.755	80 ⁴⁾	26.955

(3) In operation of the stations, the following is not allowed:

- a) Use of additional high-frequency power amplifiers;
- b) Use of directional antennas with gain in horizontal plane;
- c) Transmission which has no information content;
- d) Transmission without reception on the same channel except transmission of short warning information messages of transport infrastructure entities for drivers on roads. Such transmission is possible only during short-term extraordinariness in traffic (maintenance work, traffic accidents, etc.) for the maximum duration of 8 hours a day;
- e) The transmission of the radio beacons and the transmission of the identification of automatic stations;
- f) The transmission for commercial purposes, transmission of advertisement, radio broadcasting;⁵⁾

⁴⁾ Channel of special utilisation – see Section 2(7) to (12).

⁵⁾ Section 2(1) of the Act No. 231/2001 Coll., on Radio and Television Broadcasting and on Amendment to Other Acts,

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g) Transmission without connection or an attempt to connect with other manned station except for transmission according to Paragraph 3(d) and 8 of this Article.

(4) Transmission of telephony with angular (frequency – FM or phase – PM) modulation (transmission class F3E, G3E)⁶⁾ is allowed for channels No. 1 up to No. 80 with maximal radiated power 4 W.⁷⁾

(5) The transmission with Double Side Band amplitude modulation – DSB (transmission class A3E)⁶⁾ with maximal radiated power 4 W (measured as effective power value)^{7), 8)} and with Single Side Band – SSB (transmission class J3E, R3E)⁶⁾ with maximal radiated power 12 W e.r.p. (measured as the average power during one high-frequency cycle of the modulation envelope's peak amplitude)^{7), 9)} is allowed only for channels No. 1 up to No. 40.

(6) ČSN ETSI EN 300 433¹⁰⁾ is the harmonised standard for stations.

(7) The data transfer (transmission class F1D, F2D, G1D, G2D, J1D, J2D, A1D, A2D)⁶⁾ is allowed only on channels No. 24, 25, 52, 53, 76 and 77.

(8) The operation of remotely controlled stations in idle mode serving for reception of a message, its saving and return transmission on the same channel, which are not connected to other communication infrastructure (hereinafter “repeaters”) is allowed only on channels No. 18 and 23.

(9) The operation of remotely controlled stations in idle mode serving for reception and subsequent real-time modulation transmission (hereinafter “hotspots”) is allowed only on channels No. 60, 66, 68, 69, 71 and 78. The following conditions shall be kept during the operation:

- a) More hotspots at once can be used for communication. An identical session transmitted at the same time through more hotspots is conditioned by sending a request to activate second or any other hotspot which is to transmit the identical session. The activation is being done by a station within a radio coverage and on the frequency of the given hotspot, and its effect takes 30 minutes. If no new activation is done during this time, the hotspot terminates its transmission after the time passes;
- b) The maximum time of uninterrupted transmission (session) received by a hotspot and transmitted to another hotspot (other hotspots) shall not exceed 2 minutes. If this limit is reached, transmission of another session shall not be launched earlier than in 5 seconds;
- c) The maximum antenna gain of the hotspot is 0 dBd. Hotspots shall not be deployed closer than 15 km from the state border with Republic of Poland and Republic of Austria;
- d) Transit of modulation among hotspots shall be led through electronic communications networks. Only a station operating on frequencies according to this Article 2(9) shall be the source of modulation and management data to interconnect the hotspots;
- e) An operator is responsible for the operation of a hotspot. The operator is obliged to take such technical measures to prevent abuse of the station. At the same time, it is obliged to take remedies, including switching-off the hotspot, on request of the Office in case the Office assesses the station as a source of

as amended.

⁶⁾ Annex No. 2 to the Decree No. 156/2005 Coll., on the technical and operating conditions of the amateur radio communication service.

⁷⁾ The definition and method of the power measurement is set down in Article 8(2), harmonised standards.²⁾

⁸⁾ Abbreviation RMS stands for Root Mean Square.

⁹⁾ Abbreviation PEP stands for Peak Envelope Power.

¹⁰⁾ ČSN ETSI EN 300 433 – Electromagnetic Compatibility and Radio Spectrum Matters (ERM) – Land Mobile Service – Double Side Band (DSB) and/or Single Side Band (SSB) amplitude modulated citizen's band radio equipment.

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interference on the basis of complains on the operation of the hotspot made by foreign administrations or other users of stations utilising the radio frequencies according to Article 2(9).

(10) Channel No. 9 is reserved for information of special importance, e.g. emergency calls in case of disaster, accident, injury, criminal offence reporting, etc.

(11) Channel No. 1 is designated on a primary basis as a paging channel and channel No. 80 as a calling channel using selective calling. Having established connection on these channels, the users should find another channel and change over to it.

(12) Channels No. 10 and 19 are designated on a primary basis for a traffic information service.

(13) The stations shall be used neither on board a plane or ultralight aircraft nor as aircraft or aeronautical stations.

(14) The stations are operated using shared frequencies.

(15) The use of radio frequencies by the stations belongs to the category of a secondary service,¹¹⁾ i.e. the stations shall not cause harmful interference to the stations in a primary radiocommunication service and shall not claim the protection from them. Also, they have no protection from harmful interference caused by other citizen band radio stations. Interference issues, if any, are settled by mutual agreement between the users.

(16) The station can be neither electrically nor mechanically modified.

Article 3

Final Provisions

Any station for which the Office decided to approve the radio equipment in accordance with Section 10 of the Act No. 151/2000 Coll., on telecommunications and on amendment to certain acts, as amended, is also considered to be a station complying with the Government Order No. 426/2016 Coll., on the assessment of conformity of radio equipment when making available on the market, as amended, provided that such station has been released to the market before 1 April 2003.

Article 4

Repealing Provisions

This is to repeal General Authorisation No. VO-R/7/11.2016-12 for the use of radio frequencies and for the operation of citizen band radio stations in the 27 MHz band, ref. ČTÚ- 90 290/2016-613 of 22 November 2016, published in Volume 21/2016 of the Telecommunications Bulletin.

Article 5

Effect

This General Authorisation comes into effect from 15 August 2023.

¹¹⁾ Chapter 5, item 5.23 up to 5.33 of the Frequency Band Allocation Plan (National Table of Frequency Allocation - NTFA) of 3 December 2021, Annex to Decree No. 467/2021 Coll.

Explanatory Memorandum

To implement Sections 9 and 12 of the Act, the Office issues General Authorisation No. VO-R/7/07.2023-4 for the use of radio frequencies and for the operation of citizen band radio stations in the 27 MHz band (hereinafter referred to as the "General Authorisation").

The General Authorisation is based on the principles set out in the Act, the frequency plans and the harmonisation targets of the European Communities and replaces General Authorisation No. VO-R/7/11.2016-12 repealed by Article 4 of this General Authorisation.

Article 2 sets out the specific conditions for the operation of citizen band radio stations in the 27 MHz band. These conditions are based on decisions of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), in particular CEPT Decision No. CEPT/ECC/DEC(11)03,³) and Directive 2014/53/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of radio equipment and repealing Directive 1999/5/EC.

Following the issuance of General Authorisation No. VO-R/7/11.2016-12, the Office received complaints regarding the operation of remotely controlled stations in idle mode (hotspots), the use of which has increased in recent years. On the one hand, hotspot operators are demanding more frequency spectrum for their devices, on the other hand, other users of citizen band radio stations are experiencing interference and degradation of communication capabilities. Inspection measurements and spectrum monitoring performed by the Office (in 2022, Monitoring No. 2205-171 and 2205-172) showed that hotspot operators were using also channels other than channels No. 18 and No. 23, which were prioritised for remotely controlled stations in idle mode. On the other hand, some channels in the range No. 41 to No. 80 were very little used. Furthermore, on the basis of such monitoring of the part of the radio spectrum in question, the Office found that the current practice of hotspot operators is such that by activating one hotspot, one user puts into operation (transmission) all hotspots connected in the network. Currently there are approximately 60 hotspots on 20 radio channels. However, this practice is inconsistent with both the principle of efficient utilisation of the spectrum and the purpose and ways of use of the 27 MHz band (hereinafter referred to as the "CB band"), which is primarily designated only for communication between two stations. (If the connection is made via another station, that leaves 59 stations using radio spectrum unnecessarily.) This is also to compensate for the maximum output allowed, as the current system allows each hotspot session to be propagated virtually nationwide, which is contrary to the purpose of using the CB band as stated above. There have also been instances of long monologues being broadcast without a connection being made with the aim of making the channel unavailable to other users of the band.

On the basis of these facts, the Office has made the following amendments to Article 2 of this General Authorisation within the meaning of Section 12 of the Act:

- In Paragraph 3(d), the definition of transmission without reception has been clarified;
- In Paragraph 3(g), a condition has been added not to transmit without contacting or attempting to contact another station served, except for the transmission of short warning information messages;
- Paragraph 8 has been split into Paragraph 8 on repeaters and Paragraph 9 on hotspots. The wording of these paragraphs has also been made more precise to make it clear that repeaters and hotspots can only be operated on dedicated channels and that repeaters cannot be used as convertors. At the same time, the number of channels dedicated to hotspots has been expanded to six. In addition, conditions for the operation of unmanned stations were set based on the findings of spectrum monitoring and inspections carried out by the Office. The requirement for automatic termination of the transmission of a session (and thus its transmission by hotspots) has been specified in Paragraph 9(b) in order to ensure that disproportionately long sessions are not operated which would prevent the use of frequencies by other users. Account has also been taken of the fact that the operation

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of unmanned stations under the General Authorisation is not consulted with foreign administrations;

- The existing Paragraph 12 has been deleted, as the inadmissibility of commercial use of stations is already laid down in Article 2(3)(f).

Article 3 provides for the possibility to operate equipment placed on the market before 1 April 2003.

Article 4 repeals the General Authorisation No. VO-R/7/11.2016-12.

Article 5 lays down the effect of the General Authorisation according to Section 124(2) of the Act.

Based on the Section 130 of the Act and in accordance with the Rules of the Czech Telecommunication Office for Consultations at the Discussion Site, the Office published on 8 February 2023 a draft Measure of General Nature issuing General Authorisation No. VO-R/7/xx.2023-y for the use of radio frequencies and for the operation of citizen band radio stations in the 27 MHz band, and a call for comments on the discussion site. Within the public consultation, the Office did not receive any comments submitted by stakeholders pursuant to Article 6(2) of the Rules of the Czech Telecommunication Office for Consultations at the Discussion Site during the period of one month.¹²⁾ Beyond these rules, the Office received 5 comments sent to the Office via data mailbox or email and 148 comments, opinions and views posted on the discussion forum.¹³⁾ Many of these comments concerned exchanges between supporters and opponents of operating hotspots in the CB band. The factual comments on the proposed changes to the General Authorisation related mainly to the following areas:

Request to add additional channels for hotspots: The Office has considered the request to increase the number of channels dedicated to hotspot operation and to change them from the proposed channels 71, 72 and 73. When assessing this requirement, the Office relied primarily on Article 1(1) of this General Authorisation, which provides that the frequencies specified in the General Authorisation are designated for radio communications by natural or legal persons, i.e. the general public. For this reason, it is not possible to allocate a substantial part of the frequencies under Article 1(2) of the General Authorisation at the request of a selected community with special interest, as these frequencies would then become unusable for those station operators who, for whatever reason, do not use the hotspots. On the other hand, the Office also considered the situation in terms of the current use of the frequency band in question. Therefore, the Office partially accepted the comments and selected six channels for hotspot operation from the later released range 26.565–26.955 MHz (i.e. channels 41-80), while allocating the originally designated channels 18 and 23, which are not used for hotspots, for repeaters.

The requirement not to limit communication to the interconnection of only two hotspots: The Office has assessed the requirement to maintain the possibility of communication via multiple hotspots, in particular with regard to the efficiency of the use of the radio spectrum, and has accepted the comments regarding that in this respect it is appropriate to use only as many radio channels as necessary for this purpose. If communication is to take place between more than two stations that are not within radio range of each other, the use of additional hotspots, some of which must operate on different channels due to the repeatability of frequencies, can be considered possible provided that these hotspots are activated only in the event of a request for communication.

Lifting restrictions near the borders: The Office has examined the conditions of operation of hotspots in neighbouring countries. The Office received a communication from the

¹²⁾ https://www.ctu.cz/cs/download/diskusni_misto/pravidla_ctu_konzultace_od_01_12_2013.pdf (Czech only)

¹³⁾ <https://www.ctu.cz/vyzva-k-uplatneni-pripominek-k-navrhu-opatreni-obecne-povahy-vseobecneho-opravneni-c-vo-r7xx2023-y-k?page=2>

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German administration stating that the Federal Republic of Germany permits the operation of hotspots under a general authorisation up to the border with the Czech Republic, whereas in other countries hotspots can only be operated on the basis of individual authorisations. For this reason, the Office has waived the requirement for a 15km hotspot-free zone at the border with the Federal Republic of Germany.

Shortening the proposed 5 second pause at the end of the transmission: The Office considered the request to reduce the 5s pause after a maximum of two-minute hotspot session and admitted that such a pause may be problematic for operational reasons. The purpose of the pause is to allow another station or, more precisely, its operator, to show interest in using the frequency and to prevent possible ineffective use of frequencies by an activated hotspot not transmitting a modulation. The Office partially accepted the comments, stating that a five-second pause, not after each session but after two minutes of continuous transmission, could be considered an acceptable pause that would not cause a noticeable limitation of the hotspot operation.

Keeping channels 18 and 23 for repeaters: The Office considered a comment relating to existing unmanned stations – repeaters. The Office accepted this comment, defined repeaters in Article 2(8) and preserved channels 18 and 23, as specified in the previous General Authorisation No. VO-R/7/11.2016-12, for their operation.

Establishing a system for marking data transmission: The Office did not find it necessary to regulate the marking of stations operating in data transmission mode under Article 2(7), did not accept this comment and leaves the possibility of requiring call signs to hotspot operators.

In view of the changes made to the draft General Authorisation on the basis of the public consultation, on 16 May 2023, the Office published for repeated public consultation a revised draft General Authorisation No. VO-R/7/xx.2023-y for the use of radio frequencies and for the operation of citizen band radio stations in the 27 MHz band, and a call for comments on the discussion site. Within the public consultation, the Office did not receive any comments submitted by stakeholders pursuant to Article 6(2) of the Rules of the Czech Telecommunication Office for Consultations at the Discussion Site during the period of one month. Beyond these rules, the Office received one comment sent to the Office via data mailbox or email and 11 comments, opinions and views posted on the discussion forum. Most of them agreed with the modifications made after the first public consultation. Other comments related in particular to the following areas:

Requirement to lift restrictions on hotspots near state borders (Article 2(2)(c)): The Office notes that while Germany and Slovakia also operate citizen band radio stations in the 27 MHz band on 80 channels and do not impose any restrictions on hotspots near the border with the Czech Republic, Austria and Poland allow only 40 channels (26.965–27.405 MHz). The range 26.565–26.955 MHz (containing the channels for hotspots under this General Authorisation) is reserved by these States for other services/applications, including non-civilian, and this frequency range is subject to coordination. For this reason, the Office granted only the request to lift the restriction at the border with Slovakia.

Requirement to remove the need to activate each additional hotspot within 30 minutes: The Office did not accept the request because the proposed rule would lead to a situation where hotspots would be active even if the stations that activated them were no longer involved in the connection. This is inconsistent with the principle of efficient use of the radio spectrum.

Adding the word "justified" to Paragraph 9(e) to the complaint about the operation of a hotspot: The Office investigates every complaint about interference within its scope of powers and responsibilities. On the basis of the results of the investigation, it evaluates whether the complaint was justified or not. Only if the complaint is assessed as justified it does impose an obligation on the operator of the interfering device to take protective measures. The word "justified" does not need to be added.

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Introducing an obligation in the General Authorisation for hotspot operators to protect data: The traffic on the frequencies referred to in Article 2(2) is not inherently secure against third parties listening to the content of messages. Article 2(9)(e) requires technical measures to be taken to secure the station against misuse. The handling, processing and prohibition of misuse of data is generally regulated by the GDPR and the relevant provisions of the Civil Code. The Office therefore considers that the imposition of such a requirement in the General Authorisation is not appropriate.

On behalf of the Council of the Czech
Telecommunication Office
Marek Ebert
Council Chairman
of the Czech Telecommunication Office
<Signed>