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Subject	Gateways and Remote Operation		
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HF Internet Gateways and out-of-country Remote Operation

Introduction

Technology and licensing conditions have developed such that Internet Gateways for SSB voice traffic are possible below 29 MHz. The RSGB considers that some guidance should be put in place as to their operation and usage.

Background

The RSGB has been supportive of an experimental HF Internet Gateway on 40 m within the UK, partly on the grounds of technical interest but also because it could be developed for use as a part of a regional emergency communications response. RSGB is less convinced about the use of a remote station where the transmitter is in a different country to that of the operator.

Because the Internet can generally be best utilised for the long haul part of the link, RSGB considers that the radio part should be used predominantly for localised radio access. The RSGB considers that this is best carried out on frequencies above 28 MHz. This would continue to allow the use of FM Internet Gateways but also allow experimentation with more general usage HF SSB gateways. The width of our 10 m allocation would generally allow gateways to co-exist with other amateur service users.

Remote operation is already popular, thus the possibility exists for confusion with the use of Internet Gateways as to the country from which the transmission originates. Whilst not wishing to stifle innovation or operating fun, it is proposed to set some conditions for their operation.

Where remote stations are being used by operators outside the country in which the transmitter is located confusion on the HF and LF bands should be avoided by removing uncertainty as to the station's location.

Recommendation

Internet Gateways / remote stations should be

- Predominantly restricted to experimentation and operation for emergency communication purposes on frequencies below 28 MHz;
- Strongly encouraged to use a call sign that is appropriate for the DXCC country where the transmitter is located.