



International Amateur Radio Union

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How to help us protect the radio spectrum - the standards way

This document is important. We are asking for your help.

In the following paragraphs we have tried to explain how the standardisation process works and what each national amateur radio society can do to influence the development of international standards which affect the amateur radio. There is a specific action which we are encouraging national amateur radio societies to take immediately – **see the final section of this letter.**

Responsibility for Standards

Radio interference from many sources may make the use of amateur radio communication impossible. In order to limit the interference to an acceptably low level, it is important to influence the standards that specify interference limits.

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a global organisation – the world's leading organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies. It has a special committee on interference, “CISPR”, which has been given the task by ITU and others to prepare and publish technical standards setting limits for interference to the radio spectrum.

Influencing Standards

It is possible for national amateur radio societies to influence the setting of emission limits by participation directly in the work of CISPR, or by forwarding comments on CISPR proposals to the relevant National Standards Organisation which is a member of CISPR.

A list of the National Standards Organisations can be found here:

<http://www.iec.ch/cgi-bin/procgi.pl/www/iecwww.p?wwwlang=e&wwwprog=membrs3.p>

If at all possible each National Amateur Society should become a member of the CISPR member organisation in its own country. In some countries this may be available at low cost (as some countries classify national amateur radio societies as "Non-Governmental Organisations"). In other countries the membership fee may be quite significant. However, whether or not your society is a member of the national CISPR organisation, **you can still make input to that organisation on relevant issues.**

How standards are developed

The procedure for developing standards is that CISPR documents are prepared in working groups. CISPR then circulates drafts for comments and voting only to the national CISPR members. Documents may be circulated as early drafts – designated Document for comments (DC) or Committee Draft (CD). When consensus has been found on the content, then the voting procedures start. Documents for first vote is called Committee Draft for Vote (CDV), and this is often the most important / critical stage when we want to influence the content.

National CISPR members often have mirror committees that follow the work in CISPR and it is those committees that your society should become involved in.

IARU will of course help you with relevant information on which documents are important and circulate draft proposals for comments and/or vote.

Other interference related information can be found at: <http://www.iec.ch/zone/emc/>

Action needed now

For some time, CISPR has been considering the question of emissions from Powerline Telecommunications Systems (PLT or BPL). An early draft of a standard was circulated earlier this year, and thanks to a number of IARU Member Societies who took time to comment, the draft was rejected.

There is now a new proposed way ahead, which is contained in the attached .pdf file (CISPR/I/269/DC). I have prepared a proposed response, which I would like you to send to your National Standards Committee. Attached is the response (the document headed "Annex") and a covering letter which you can use. If you have an expert on EMC, please feel free to modify the response, but keep the general approach the same.

It is important that your society forwards this– with your own modifications if you wish – to your national member of IEC CISPR by end-July 2008.

Please help us to influence the standardisation process in this important area.

73

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