



International Amateur Union – Region 1

Newsletter 68 – October 2013

Permanent HF Committee



To: Members of IARU R1 HF Committee, IARU R1 Executive Committee, Chairman of R1 VHF/UHF/MW Committee, RRWG Coordinator, IARUMS Region 1 Coordinator, Region 1 Beacon Coordinator, the President of IARU and the Secretary of IARU.

68.1 IARU Region 2 modified its 40m band plan to harmonize again with Region 1

See the new IARU Region 2 band plan which became effective September 27, 2013:

<http://www.iaru-r2.org/documents/explorer/files/Plan%20de%20bandas%20I%20Band-plan/R2%20Band%20Plan%202013.pdf>

Having a harmonised band plan in all 3 Regions has been always a goal of IARU. A harmonised designation of band segments for similar usage increases the chance for a contact between stations in different Regions.

Region 1 adapted at the Davos Conference 2006 a band plan philosophy with subdivisions based on bandwidth, activity centres etc.

Later Region 2 also got a new band plan (effective January 1st 2008) with subdivisions very similar to Region 1 band plan, so a harmonized situation between Region 1 and 2 was reached, with only minor differences.

As a result of the ITU World Radio Conference 2003 Region 1 received 100 kHz more spectrum on 40m. Therefore the Cavtat Conference 2008 modified the 40m band plan and extended the spectrum for Digimodes significantly, but also for CW by 5 kHz. However the changes made by the Cavtat conference to the Region 1 band plan on 40m caused in practice some problems for Region 1 operators wishing to operate with Digimodes stations in Region 2.

Some in Region 1 did not fully understand the right interpretation of the wording in both band plans and continued to operate below 7040 kHz with a Digimode in the CW segment, although such contacts with Region 2 above 7040 kHz would not be contrary to the Region 2 band plan. (Some operators also claimed that they didn't get an answer when calling CQ in the new segment after 29 March 2009 – a typical “chicken and egg” problem after a change).

For the IARU Region 2 conference to be held in Mexico in September 2013 the Region 2 secretary called in the beginning of 2013 for input papers for a planned agenda item “band planning”. The chairman of the IARU Region 1 HF Committee asked the Region 2 secretary and some Region 2 Member Societies for a recommendation to establish again a full harmonization between Region 1 and 2 on the 40m band.

A Region 1 recommendation with some background information was distributed with the conference input papers to all Region 2 Member Societies and was backed by a similar official proposal as an input paper to the General Conference by the RAC (Canadian Member Society).

The Interim Meeting Vienna 2013 had been informed by the C4 Chairman about his actions for getting better harmonization again on 40m and it is planned to take similar steps in advance of the next IARU Region 3 conference.

Some Region 3 Member Societies have meanwhile been asked to introduce into their national band plan a footnote allowing Digimode above 7040 kHz for international contacts, as it is already in the Japanese 40m band plan.

68.2 IARU Region 1 E-mail reflector for HF Managers and Liaison Officers of Member Societies

Not all Member Societies have appointed a person who is subscribed to this reflector. It allows us to share information, to raise questions and to discuss HF matters, especially between General Conferences or Interim Meetings.

Please address to DK4VW@iaru-1.org your interest to join this very useful E-mail reflector in a closed Yahoo group IARUR1HF.

68.3 Contest Rules – Frequency segments free of contest activity

To establish a better balance of interest between contesters and non-contesters on HF bands the General Conference Cavtat 2008 gave two recommendations:

It is recommended that within the chapter 'Guidelines for HF Contests' of the IARU Region 1 HF Manager's Handbook, a distinct recommendation to incorporate contest free segments in the rules of contests organized by national societies and its' subdivisions shall be given and made well known.

(Cavtat 2008 – CT08_C4_Rec_15)

It is recommended that Region 1 Member Societies check and put into effect rules that relate to frequency usage for the HF contests that they organize, and that the Region 1 Executive considers encouraging other IARU Regions to adopt a similar approach.

(Cavtat 2008 – CT08_C4_Rec_16)

Several Member Societies already followed these recommendations and specify in the rules of the contests they organize the frequency segments to be used by contesters. It has been observed that in most contests organized by Member Societies and their subdivisions, the rules giving non-contest segments were well respected.

Contest organizers are encouraged to make such rules known to contesters, especially to occasional contesters, and eventually check for violations and try to improve the knowledge of limitation.

Those contest organizer still naming only the bands, like 80m, 40m, 20m etc., are encouraged to also be more specific in the contest rules for the 2014 contests.

**68.4 Calling Note for the 2014 General Conference – Varna-Albena, Bulgaria
21 – 27 September 2014**

The IARU Region 1 secretary has sent out already E-mails to all Member Societies with information papers for the next General Conference requesting some actions.

Your Society is invited to submit papers for consideration by the Conference.

Papers must be submitted by 1 May 2014 by e-mail to the Conference Secretary at secretary@iaru-r1.org.

73 Ulli

Ulrich Mueller, DK4VW
Chairman Permanent HF Committee C4
International Amateur Radio Union Region 1
Tel: +49 6421 33660
GSM: +49 178 729 41 68
Skype: dk4vw_marburg
E-mail: dk4vw@iaru-r1.org