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| **Public Consultation** |
| **Maritime Radio** |
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| **Commencement Date: 18 October 2015**  **Response Date: 19 November 2015** |

Preface and Notes to Potential Respondents

TRA Regulations “Maritime Radio Service”, Version 1.0” dated 30 December 2009 sets the technical rules for authorization of Maritime Radio in the UAE. In keeping with its values of transparency and sector engagement, the TRA wishes to consult on these regulations and proposed changes.

The purpose of this document is to invite comments from any organizations that would be impacted by the proposed changes in this document, which the TRA will then consider prior to making a final decision.

All concerned should respond to this consultation in writing to the TRA on or before the response date stated on the front cover of this document. The comments which are contained in any response to this consultation should be clearly identified with respect to the specific question in this consultation to which such comments refer. Any comments which are of a general nature and not in response to a particular question should be clearly identified as such.

Responses to this consultation should be made in writing and provided electronically in MS Word format, on or before the response date stated on the front cover of this document. Responses must be accompanied by the full contacts details (contact name, e-mail address and phone and fax numbers) of the respondent to:

[**spectrumconsultation@tra.gov.ae**](mailto:spectrumconsultation@tra.gov.ae)

Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

P.O. Box 26662

Abu Dhabi, UAE

Respondents are advised that it will be the general intention of the TRA to publish in full the responses received to this consultation. Additionally, the TRA may, at its discretion generate and publish a “Summary of Responses” document at the conclusion of this consultation. Accordingly, the Summary of Responses may include references to and citations (in whole or in part) of comments which have been received. The TRA recognizes that certain responses may include commercially sensitive and confidential information which the respondent may not wish to be published. In the event that a response contains confidential information, it shall be the responsibility of the respondent to clearly mark any information which is considered to be of a confidential nature.

In any event the respondent shall be required to submit two versions of its response to the TRA as follows:

* A full copy of its response in MS Word format with any confidential information clearly marked. The TRA will not publish the Word document and will only use it for internal purposes.
* A publishable copy of its response in Adobe PDF format. The TRA will publish the PDF version in its entirety. Thus, the respondent should take care to redact any commercially sensitive and confidential information in the PDF version of its response.

By participating in this consultation and by providing a PDF version of its response the respondent expressly authorizes the TRA to publish the submitted PDF version of its response in full.

It should be noted that none of the ideas expressed or comments made in this consultation document will necessarily result in formal decisions by the TRA and nothing contained herein shall limit or otherwise restrict the TRA’s powers to regulate the telecommunications sector at any time.

If any Person or entity seeks to clarify or discuss any part of this outline can request for a meeting in writing again to the above E-mail before and then TRA will set the meetings in the period from 27-29 October 2015 so that formal comments can still be received by **1200 hours on 19 November 2015.**

Consultation Schedule

18 October 2015: Publishing of consultation document

27-29 October 2015: Meetings with stakeholders if requested by stakeholders

19 November 2015: Close of consultation

Table of Contents

[1 Introduction 6](#_Toc429584545)

[2 Proposed Changes 8](#_Toc429584549)

[3 Summary of consultation questions 16](#_Toc429584550)

# Introduction

## The TRA is in the process of reviewing the spectrum regulations related to the authorization of Maritime Radio as detailed in the Articles of “Regulations: Maritime Radio Service”, Version 1.0” dated 30 December 2009.

## Following a competitive tender process, the TRA appointed specialist telecoms market consultants LS telcom (“the Consultants”) to undertake review of the existing regulations.

## The Consultant has examined the regulation “Maritime Radio Service”, Version 1.0” dated 30 December 2009 and compared these against those in a series of benchmark countries. The benchmark countries used consisted of a combination of countries where relevant spectrum regulations are publicly available and whose spectrum regimes are well developed. Focus has been set on countries from ITU-Region 1 and countries within the region. Benchmark countries comprise:

* Qatar
* United Kingdom
* The Netherlands
* Canada

## In examining the UAE spectrum regulations and comparing them to international benchmarks, a number of principles have been used in guiding the proposals:

* Changes in the way services are defined or implemented in the UAE should be incorporated
* Changes in relevant ITU-R publications and industry changes should be incorporated to reflect latest developments and changes in technology
* Wherever possible technical information and frequency tables should be presented in line with the text, references to annexes should be avoided
* Wherever possible references to ITU-R publications and industry standards should be used instead of repeating text from these documents
* Non-technical regulations should be reduced to the relevant service specific regulations to avoid unnecessary overlap with other more general TRA regulations
* The different technical regulations reviewed should be harmonized in terms of structure and wording

## The remainder of this document is structured as follows:

* Section 2 presents details the Consultants proposed changes to the regulatory instrument
* Section 3 presents a summary of the proposed changes.

## Note that only those articles for which changes are proposed are discussed.

# Proposed Changes

## **New Article: Scope of Document**

### In order to define the scope of the document and give guidance on other relevant TRA regulations we propose to include a new article at the beginning of the document stating:

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| *0.1 This document comprises regulations for the authorization and operation of Maritime Radio. It shall be read in conjunction with the following documents available from the TRA website at www.tra.gov.ae:*  0.1.1 *Spectrum Allocation and Assignment Regulations*  *0.1.2 Spectrum Fees Regulations*  *0.1.3 Interference Management Regulations*  *0.1.4 National Spectrum Plan and National Table of Frequency  Allocation* |

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| Question 1: | Do Stakeholders have any views on the proposed introduction of a new article defining the scope of document and relevant other regulations? |

## **Merging of content from Article 2 and 3 under a new Article 2**

### We propose to merge content from Article 2 “Permitted Use” and Article 3 “Maritime Authorization Types” under a new Article 2.

### In addition to this we propose to reword article 2.1 to increase readability and to include Buoys and Maritime Radar in the scope of the document:

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| *2.1 Usage of Maritime Radio is allowed for the following, subject to terms and conditions as given on the TRA Authorization and applicable Regulatory Instruments:*  *2.1.1 Shore-to-ship / Ship-to-Shore (port operations, coast station public correspondence, private agencies)*  *2.1.2 Inter ship communications / On board communications*  *2.1.3 Distress, safety and calling channels*  *2.1.4 Search and rescue*  *2.1.5 Automatic Identification System (AIS)*  *2.1.6 Buoys*  *2.1.7 Maritime Radar* |

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| Question 2: | Do Stakeholders have any comments on the proposed rewording of Article 2.1 and the related extension of the scope of document? |

### In addition to this we propose to move Article 3.2 under the new Article 2 and to reword it to adjust the categorization of Vessels to the categorization used in “Spectrum Fees Regulations”:

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| *3.2 Vessels covered by this regulation have been divided into the three following types:*  *3.2.1* ***Fishing boats****; having fishing boat status by National Transport Authority;*  *3.2.2* ***Pleasure******Boats:*** *These are vessel that use only maritime channels 16 and 88, have no MMSI and do not travel outside UAE coastal waters.*  *3.2.4* ***Ships:*** *These are vessels that make any other use of maritime frequencies than mentioned above.* |

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| Question 3: | Do Stakeholders have any comments to the proposed changes for authorization classes for vessel as stated above? |

### In order to include all general regulations on authorization to the new Article 2 we also propose to move articles 6.2.9 to 6.2.11 under Article 2.

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| Question 4: | Do Stakeholders have any comments to the proposed move of Articles 6.29 – 6.2.11 under Article 2? |

## **New Article 3 “Frequency Assignment for Maritime Radio / Technical Conditions”**

### In order to increase the readability of the document we propose to add a new Article 3 “Frequency Assignment for Maritime Radio / Technical Conditions” that summarizes information of frequency bands and technical conditions from different articles. For this we propose to move and modify article 5.1 and the corresponding table with frequency uses under Article 3 as following:

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| *5.1 The following table gives guidance on authorized bands for vessels, their uses and applicable technical criteria.*   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Frequency Band** | **Use** | **Usage Conditions** | | 415-526.5 kHz | MF telegraphy (main use), Narrow Band Direct Printing (NDPD) | Use shall be in accordance with the ITU Geneva-85 Plan GE85-MM-R1, of the year 1985 | | 1606.5-3800 kHz | MF telephony (main use)  Narrow Band Direct Printing (NDPD)  Digital Selective Calling (DSC) | Channel plan based on RR Appendix 17 and Appendix 25. | | 1.6-30 MHz | HF Radio | Channel plan based on RR Appendix 17 and Appendix25 | | 121.5/123.1 MHz | Aeronautical Search and Rescue equipment |  | | 121.5 MHz | Emergency Position Indicating Radio  Beacons (EPIRBs) and Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs), | Max Power: 200 mW | | 156.000 - 162.025 MHz | VHF Radio | Channel Plan in accordance with RR Appendix 18 and the national channel plan as given in Section 2.2  Max Power:  Handheld 5 W  Installed: 25 W | | 406-406.1 MHz | Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) and Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) | Max Power: 5 Watt | | 2900-3100 MHz | Radar | ITU-R M.1313  Max. Power: 100 kW | | 2930-2950 MHz | Radar Transponder | ITU-R M.824  Max. Power: 50 W | | 457.525 MHz 457.550 MHz 457.575 MHz 467.525 MHz 467.550 MHz 467.575 MHz | UHF Radio for on-board communications | Limited to vessels within 3 nautical miles of the UAE Baseline  ITU-R M1174  Max Power: 2 Watt | | 5460-5650 MHz | Radar | ITU-R M.1313  Max. Power: 100 kW | | 9200-9500 MHz | Radar Transponder | ITU-R M.824  Max. Power: 50 W | | 13.4-14 GHz | Radar | Only on a case by case evaluation | |

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| Question 5: | Do Stakeholders have any views on the proposed table, included frequency bands, references and transmit power limitations? |

### In addition we propose to move article 5.2 and the corresponding table with the UAE VHF channel plan under Article 3 and modify it to read as:

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| *5.2 The following VHF channel plan based on RR Appendix 18 (Annex-1) shall be used for making Assignments:*   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Application** | **Channels** | | Automatic Ship Identification  and Surveillance | AIS-1, AIS-2 | | Coastal Stations  (Public correspondence) | 1 - 4, 23 – 27, 60, 66, 81, 82  28 (Data and direct telegraphy) | | Distress Safety and calling | 16 (Emergency and distress calling only)  70 (Digital Selective Calling (DSC) only) | | Inter-ship | 8 – 10, 13, 72 | | Navigation related communication | 75, 76 (Radiated power less than 1Watt) | | Port Operations | 11 – 14 (simplex operation)  5, 18-21 (duplex operation) | | Safety of Navigation (Inter ship) | 13 | | Special events and testing | 83 – 86 | | Search and Rescue (Air-ship) | 6, 67, 73 | | Ship (on-board) | 15, 17 (Transmit power limited to 1 Watt) | | Ship Movement | 11 - 13, 68, 69, 71 (simplex operation)  61, 62, 64, 65, 79, 80 (duplex operation) | | Shore –to-ship (shipping agencies) | 22 | | Small boat communication | 63, 88 | |

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| Question 6: | Do Stakeholders have any views on the proposed VHF channel plan? |

Furthermore we propose to move and merge Articles 9.2 and 9.3 to a new article under t Article 3. The proposed new section reads as following:

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| *3a Frequencies for distress and safety communications*  *3.a.1 The frequencies to be used for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) shall be in accordance with RR Appendix 15*  *3.a.2 The frequencies used for non-GMDSS distress and safety communications are 4125 kHz and 6215 kHz. Details of their use are specified in RR Appendix 17.* |

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| Question 7: | Do Stakeholders agree to move and merge Article 9.2 and 9.3 under Article 3? |

## **Rewording of Articles to align text with the new authorization classes**

### In order to align the text of the regulation with the new authorization classes we propose to reword sections of articles 6 and 10. The following gives the proposed text for the reworded articles:

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| *Article 6:*  *6.1 Fishing Boats and Boats Authorization*  *6.1.1 Vessels for the purpose of small fishing boat and boat Authorization are classified into:*  *a. Small Fishing Boats*  *b. Other boats (including pleasure boats) that do not travel outside UAE coastal waters*  *6.1.2 It is mandatory for boats and small fishing boats having length greater than 35 feet to carry at least one VHF radio. It is optional to carry VHF radios on board the boats and fishing vessels having a length less than 35 feet.*  *6.1.4 The small fishing boat and boat Authorization may include one or two, fixed or portable VHF Stations.*  *6.2 Ships Authorization*  *Article 10:*  *10.1 All authorized vessels shall carry the TRA Authorization.* |

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| Question 8: | Do Stakeholders have any views of the proposed rewording of Articles as given above? |

## **Addition of an article on “Spectrum coordination” to harmonise text over different regulations**

### We propose to add the following text on spectrum coordination to align this regulation with other regulations:

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| ***Article: Spectrum Coordination and Notification***  *8.1 Coordination of Radio Frequencies for the radio stations at the national, regional and international levels shall be made through the Authority, as it is the sole body responsible for Radio Frequency coordination.*  *8.2 Notifying and Registering of Radio Frequencies of these Stations in the ITU shall be made through the Authority according to the procedures outlined in the Radio Regulations.*  *8.3 The applicant agrees to participate fully in any subsequent coordination procedures* |

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| Question 9: | Do Stakeholders have any views on the proposed use of the addition of a harmonized e article on “Spectrum Coordination and Notification”? |

## **Editorial Changes**

### In order to improve the document we propose to perform editorial changes to Articles 8.2 (correction of frequencies) and modify the corresponding text to read as following:

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| *Article 8:*  *8.2 The Accounting Authority shall maintain and operate coastal stations to cover to the maximum extent possible the UAE coastline. In addition to the traffic channels, each coastal station shall operate Channel 28 (Ship station transmit at 157.40 MHz, Coastal station transmit at162.00 MHz) as calling channel, Channel 16 (156.80 MHz simplex) for Distress, safety and calling, and Channel 70 (156.525 MHz simplex) for DSC. Channel 16 and 70 shall be routed to the UAE Search and Rescue center.* |

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| Question 10: | Do Stakeholders have any views of the proposed rewording of Articles 8.2? |

## **Deletion of sections**

### In order to improve the readability of the document we propose to move the content of Article 9 under the new Article 3.

### As a consequence of the proposed inclusion of the modified tables with frequency bands under a new Article 3 and in order to avoid overlap with other regulations we propose to delete the following Articles:

* Article 5.3 as its content is merged with the table under Article 2.1
* Article 9.4 as it concerns TRA internal processes only
* Article 12 to remove overlap with other regulations

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| Question 11: | Do Stakeholders agree to the deletions of the articles listed above? |

# Summary of consultation questions

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| Question 1: | Do Stakeholders have any views on the proposed introduction of a new article defining the scope of document and relevant other regulations? |
| Question 2 | Do Stakeholders have any comments on the proposed rewording of Article 2.1 and the related extension of the scope of document? |
| Question 3: | Do Stakeholders have any comments to the proposed changes for authorization classes for vessel as stated above? |
| Question 4: | Do Stakeholders have any comments to the proposed move of Articles 6.29 – 6.2.11 under Article 2? |
| Question 5: | Do Stakeholders have any views on the proposed table, included frequency bands, references and transmit power limitations? |
| Question 6: | Do Stakeholders have any views on the proposed VHF channel plan? |
| Question 7: | Do Stakeholders agree to move and merge Article 9.2 and 9.3 under Article 3? |
| Question 8: | Do Stakeholders have any views of the proposed rewording of Articles as given above? |
| Question 9: | Do Stakeholders have any views on the proposed use of the addition of a harmonized e article on “Spectrum Coordination and Notification”? |
| Question 10: | Do Stakeholders have any views of the proposed rewording of Articles 8.2? |
| Question 11 | Do Stakeholders agree to the deletions of the articles listed above? |