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New Shared Channel 38 Licences Now Available

You may be aware that wireless microphone and in-ear monitor users will have to cease operating in channel 69 (854 MHz to 862 MHz) during 2012. Channel 69 is unique in that it is the only 8 MHz TV channel that is reserved exclusively for the licensed operation of this type of equipment. Ofcom, the UK spectrum regulator, has now confirmed that channel 38 (tuneable range from 606.5 MHz to 613.5 MHz) will be the 'shared use replacement' for channel 69.

On the 4th of January 2010 JFMG began issuing a new form of shared licence enabling wireless microphone and in-ear monitor users more flexible use of channel 38. In the past frequencies within channel 38 have had to be licensed on a 'where, when and for how long basis'. This arrangement has now changed with the issuing of the new, shared licences. However, it should be noted that until Digital Switchover is complete there are, and will continue to be, specific geographical restrictions on both internal (indoor) and external (outdoor) use of equipment within the band. Wireless microphone and in-ear monitor users are strongly advised - it is actually a legal requirement - to check the availability of channel 38 in their proposed area of operation by referring to JFMG's look up tool, which can be located here:

<http://www.jfmg.co.uk/JfmgEcom/Wireless/Public/MicrophoneSh600.aspx>

Ofcom have recognised that Channel 38 will not be fully available throughout the UK until 2012 and so have also included temporary geographically restricted access to Channels 39 and/or 40 in those areas where Channel 38 is not completely clear for use. Details of frequency availability in these additional channels are also included in the look up tool and users are legally required to check frequency availability for their location using this tool before transmitting.

Channel 69 (854 MHz to 862 MHz)

For the time being, channel 69 remains usable, is included in the look up tool and is covered by the terms of the new licence. An example of the licence can be viewed here:

<http://www.jfmg.co.uk/pages/licence/Licence%20Text/ShMicLicUHF Cust.pdf>

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Channel 70 - (863 MHz to 865 MHz)

2 MHz of channel 70 (863 MHz to 865 MHz) are still currently reserved on a near pan-European basis for licence exempt use of wireless audio devices. This spectrum sub-band is not covered by the new licence and therefore remains free to use for wireless microphone and in-ear monitor users who own or operate equipment tuned to frequencies within this band.

N.B. - *It is illegal to operate UHF wireless microphones or in-ear monitor systems outside of the 863-865 MHz licence exempt sub-band without the appropriate licence/licences.*

For further details on licensing please contact:

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