



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 2017 Regional Conference – Landshut, Germany

Subject	Disqualification for out-of band operation during contests		
Society	DARC	Country:	Germany
Committee:	C4	Paper number:	TBD
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Background:

Several HF bands have been allocated by the ITU to the amateur service.

All parts of a transmission by amateurs are expected to be completely within these allocated frequency bands.

It has been realised on a few occasions that in the heat of a contest with a very high number of participants some operators didn't comply fully - or even at all - with this ITU requirement.

Please note: this paper does not deal with the violation of frequency segments prescribed by contest rules or the band plan.

Situation:

There are three negative issues involved with out-of-band transmissions:

1. The operator has an advantage over the other participants by having less QRM at the band edges.
2. A station calling CQ Contest too close to the band edge misleads others to violate the ITU allocation at the same time.
3. The reputation of the amateur service is at high risk by such operating techniques.

The latter is the most important issue since administrations expect the ITU radio regulation to be fully respected. The more the ITU radio regulation isn't followed by some amateurs, the less we may expect sympathy by administration to support new amateur radio agenda items at a WRC or to release additional spectrum on a national basis in reference to ITU article 4.4.

In the context of self-management of the amateur service it is desirable that actions are to be taken to prevent any out-of-band operation, especially during contests in future.

Key point and proposal:

To prevent any out-of-band operation by contesters the contest rules shall clearly warn against this misuse by the threat of disqualification.

An example for such warning can be found in the rules of the CQ WW 160m Contest:

<http://cq160.com/rules.htm>

Recommendation:

It is recommended that all contest rules clearly forbid any out-of-band operation. A violation of this regulation should lead to disqualification.