

# Prohibited devices— GPS jammers

## What is a GPS jammer?

GPS jammers, also known as RNSS jammers, transmit signals that interfere with radio-navigation satellite service (RNSS) signalling and reception.

## What harm do GPS jammers cause?

These devices can affect services over significant distances and can pose a substantial risk to licensed radiocommunications.

Most importantly, they can affect the navigation systems relied on by emergency services, such as police, ambulance and fire services.

## Can I operate a GPS jammer?

No. GPS jammers are prohibited devices.

The Radiocommunications (Prohibited Device) (RNSS Jamming Devices) Declaration 2014 prohibits the **operation** or **supply**, or **possession** for the purpose of operation or supply of a GPS jamming device.

## What about mobile phone jammers?

Mobile phone jammers disrupt frequency bands used for the supply of mobile telecommunications services.

They are also prohibited.

## What are the penalties for using GPS jammers?

Various offences apply under the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*, depending on how the person caught with the device was using it.

Offences include:

- > the operation or supply of a prohibited device, which can attract a penalty of two years

- imprisonment (if the offender is an individual), body corporates may receive a penalty of over \$300,000 (1,500 penalty units)—section 189
- > causing interference likely to prejudice the safe operation of vessels, aircraft or space object, which can attract a penalty of five years imprisonment (if the offender is an individual) or 5,000 penalty units (over \$1 million) for body corporates—section 192
- > causing interference in relation to certain radiocommunications (including to rescue and emergency call service organisations such as police, fire, ambulance), which can attract a penalty of five years imprisonment (if the offender is an individual) or 5,000 penalty units (over \$1 million) for body corporates—section 193
- > causing interference likely to endanger safety of another person or cause another person to suffer or incur substantial loss or damage, which can attract a penalty of five years imprisonment (if the offender is an individual) or 5,000 penalty units (over \$1 million) for body corporates—section 194
- > reckless conduct that causes substantial interference with radiocommunications, or substantial disruption or disturbance of radiocommunications, which can attract a penalty of one year imprisonment—section 197.

*Please note: this document is intended as a guide only and should not be relied on as legal advice or regarded as a substitute for legal advice in individual cases.*



## More information

Contact the ACMA on 1300 850 115 or [info@acma.gov.au](mailto:info@acma.gov.au)