

# Wireless audio transmitters—suppliers

Does your business manufacture, import or sell wireless audio transmitters? From 1 January 2015, it will be illegal to operate these devices in the 694–820 MHz frequency range. This fact sheet explains all the important changes that may affect your business as a supplier of these devices.

## What are wireless audio transmitters?

Wireless audio transmitters include wireless microphones, in-ear monitoring systems, public announcement systems and musical pick-ups.

## What's changing and why?

Many wireless audio transmitters currently operate in the spectrum located at frequency range 694–820 MHz. In 2010, the government declared this range as the 'digital dividend' to be used for new communication services from 1 January 2015.

To protect these new services from interference, it will be illegal to use wireless audio transmitters in the digital dividend from 1 January 2015.

To prevent the supply of these devices into Australia and stop customers from buying them, new laws have been introduced. The ACMA is working with industry and users of wireless audio transmitters to make them aware of the key changes and dates, which are summarised in the timeline on the following page.



Date	Change
17 September 2013	A wireless audio transmitter that operates in the digital dividend and is imported or manufactured <i>after</i> this date must include a brief written statement on its packaging explaining that it cannot be operated in this frequency range after 31 December 2014.
1 January 2014	Wireless audio transmitters that operate in the digital dividend cannot be <i>imported into or manufactured</i> for supply in Australia. Such transmitters will be considered 'non-standard' devices and illegal to supply in Australia.  Transmitters that have been imported or manufactured between 17 September and 31 December 2013 can continue to be <i>sold</i> in Australia. However, these transmitters must include a brief written statement.
1 January 2015	It will be illegal to operate wireless audio transmitters in the digital dividend.

### What must I include in the brief written statement?

The statement must say:

*This device operates under an ACMA class licence and must comply with all the conditions of that licence including operating frequencies. Before 31 December 2014, this device will comply if it is operated in the 520–820 MHz frequency band. WARNING: After 31 December 2014, in order to comply, this device must not be operated in the 694–820 MHz band.*

The statement must be prominently displayed on the outside of the product's package, be at least 5 mm high and be printed in bold type.

### I have stock of wireless audio transmitters that operate in the 694–820 MHz range. Can I still sell them and what do I need to tell potential buyers?

Transmitters that have been imported or manufactured before 1 January 2014 can continue to be sold in Australia. However, these transmitters must include a brief written statement about their limited use after 31 December 2014.

It would be good practice to also inform potential buyers about the limited use of such transmitters so they can make an informed decision before they make their purchase.

Under consumer protection laws, businesses cannot make statements that are incorrect or likely to create a false impression. If buyers believe you have misled them or withheld information, they may take action against you, including lodging a complaint with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission or their state or territory fair trading agency.

## What can I do with the wireless audio transmitters that I cannot sell?

Planet Ark's [Recycling near you](#) website can identify your nearest electronic waste disposal service.

## What happens if I do not comply with the changes that are outlined in the table?

The ACMA will undertake education and compliance activities to ensure that suppliers include a brief written statement with each wireless audio transmitter and that such devices are no longer imported or manufactured for supply in Australia from 1 January 2014. This work will form part of the ACMA's prioritised compliance activities.

## What frequency ranges can wireless audio transmitters use instead?

The main frequency ranges that can be used to operate wireless audio transmitters from 1 January 2015 are 520–694 MHz and 1790–1800 MHz. A [full list of other available frequency ranges](#) is on the ACMA website.

## What information will users of wireless audio transmitters be given?

Users of wireless audio transmitters will be advised to:

- > Check their user manuals or contact their supplier to determine whether their devices operate in the digital dividend.
- > Check if they can retune their device to use a different frequency range. If they cannot retune, they will need to buy new equipment that does **not** operate in the 694–820 MHz frequency range.
- > Consider buying equipment that can be retuned to the widest frequency range.
- > Read the fact sheets for [plug and play](#) and [professional users](#).



## More information

- > Read the [FAQs for suppliers](#) or visit the [wireless microphones hub](#) on our website.
- > Subscribe to our free monthly [e-bulletin](#) or email us at [freqplan@acma.gov.au](mailto:freqplan@acma.gov.au).

The ACMA would like to thank Jands Pty Ltd for providing the images of wireless audio transmitters.

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