

Australian Communications and Media Authority
Changes to CB radio arrangements - Consultation paper - JUNE 2025

Responses to suggested changes:

Frequency modulation use in the HF band

I support the proposed amendment to include FM mode in the Radiocommunications (Citizen Band Radio Stations) Class Licence 2025, for 27 MHz CB radio users in Australia. This change would align Australia with international standards and product offerings, particularly those of Europe and the United States, where FM mode (incorporating CTCSS/DCS) is widely adopted. Enabling FM mode locally would open access to a significant range of globally manufactured CB radio products that are currently unavailable under existing regulations. This alignment would not only expand equipment choices for Australian CB suppliers and users but may also help revitalise the 27 MHz CB band by offering an alternative to 477MHz UHF CB. FM mode on 27 MHz CB radio offers its own performance advantages in some use cases (such as in rural environments and non line-of-sight situations), with a very similar and familiar user interface to UHF CB, as well as offering less channel congestion in some areas where UHF CB usage is more widespread.

Initiating contact on HF channels 11 and 16 and UHF channel 11

I support this amendment.

A CB radio connected to a telecommunications network

I support this amendment.

Use of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) applications

I support this amendment.

Emergency communications on HF channel 9 and UHF channels 5 and 35

While HF CB Channel 9 is not currently in widespread use or routinely monitored by the existing user base in Australia, it is important to note that many newly manufactured, latest generation 27 MHz FM-capable CB radio products intended for international markets are equipped with a dedicated Channel 9 (CH9) emergency button, or function. Should FM mode be incorporated into the Class Licence, it is reasonable to expect increased uptake of such equipment and, consequently, a potential rise in the relevance and use of Channel 9 as an emergency channel.

In light of this, I suggest that no changes be made to the current HF CB Channel 9 provisions at this time. Retaining the existing arrangements will ensure continued alignment with internationally adopted features and support the interoperability of globally sourced CB equipment within the Australian market.

Regards,

P Trease