

Information on the situation on 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz WLAN devices per July 2012

Current Classification situation on 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz WLAN devices.

Introduction

In the past period the R&TTECA Secretariat has received many questions regarding the situation for 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz Wide Band Data Transmission Systems (WLAN, BT, etc).

After consultation with the EU Commission the following current situation is provided.

2.4 GHz WLAN

2.4 GHz WLAN devices previously required the Alert Symbol as a Class 2 device due to restrictive use in France for wideband data devices up to 100 mW allowing indoor use only. From 1st July 2012, the restriction automatically has been removed.

WLAN in the 2.4 GHz range is now harmonized and Class 1 (Subclass 22) because no restriction is anymore available.

The following Note on Sub-class 22 in the ECC "Short Range Device regulations and indicative list of equipment sub-classes in accordance with the R&TTE Directive (1999/5/EC)" is thus not applicable anymore

**) "Equipment within the scope of subclass 22, but capable also of operating at 100 mW across the whole of the frequency band is not to be considered a class 1 device. They can be operated in the EU without restrictions indoor, but cannot be operated outdoors in France in the whole of the band until further notice. They have to be marked with the alert sign accordingly. Member States have however agreed, that they do not need to be notified to Member States under Article 6.4 of Directive 1999/5/EC, provided that users are informed about the restrictions of use."*

5 GHz WLAN

The situation in the 5 GHz frequency range is a little bit different and complicated. Only the frequency band 5.470 – 5.725 GHz is Harmonized and Class 1 (Sub-class 54)

The 5.150 - 5.350 GHz frequency band, even if its technical parameters are fully harmonized remains in Class 2 because the use is limited in indoor areas.

The Note on Sub-class 54 in the ECC "Short Range Device regulations and indicative list of equipment sub-classes in accordance with the R&TTE Directive (1999/5/EC)" is still 100% valid and correct.

54 Wideband Data Transmission Systems operating in the 5470 - 5725 MHz band.

" Note: TCAM 21 agreed that equipment, which can operate only in band 5470-5725 MHz and which is compliant with the Commission [Decision 2005/513/EC](#) as amended by [Decision 2007/90/EC](#) and the essential requirements of the R&TTE Directive, is considered as Class 1 equipment.

In addition, TCAM 21 agreed that equipment, which can operate in both frequency bands 5150-5350 MHz and 5470-5725 MHz and which is compliant with the Commission Decision [Decision 2005/513/EC](#) as amended by [Decision 2007/90/EC](#) and the essential requirements of the R&TTE Directive, is considered as Class 2 equipment although this equipment is exempted from the notification procedure referred to in article 6.4 of the Directive 1999/5/EC. All provisions for Class 2 equipment (e.g. Class 2 identifier, specific information to the user, etc.) are still applicable."