



Information Sheet

Citizen's Band Radio

A) Licensing

Introduction

This information sheet briefly describes the Role of the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority (GRA) and outlines the regulations, which govern use of CB Radio.

The installation and use of all Citizens' Band Radio (CB) transceivers must be covered by a licence issued on behalf of the Minister for Communications. This Section explains how to obtain a licence, how much it costs and who is covered by it.

Why manage radio?

Radio signals, which are used by millions of people worldwide, do not stop at national borders. Without adequate planning and management, the radio signals from different users and services would interfere with each other and, above a certain level of interference, radio would become useless as a reliable and effective means of communication. The GRA plans and manages spectrum to ensure that the appropriate kind of spectrum is available to those who need it, that it is used efficiently and with as little interference as possible. In order to ensure the optimum spectrum use for the benefit of all users the GRA:

- Plans the basis on which radio spectrum is made available for particular services;
- Regulates the way in which those services operate;
- Takes action to deal with harmful interference and abuse when it occurs.

What is CB Radio

CB is a short range radio service for both hobby and business use. It is designed to be used without the need to have any technical qualifications and not to cause interference to other radio users. Hence, only radios meeting certain specific requirements may be used.

To use CB, you either need to hold a licence yourself or be directly supervised by a licence holder. However, we do offer exemptions to person's aged 70 and over.

Do I need a CB licence?

Unless you are using CB radio under the direct supervision of another CB licence-holder, you will need to take out a CB licence in your own name. Please note that children under the age of 14 years cannot hold a CB licence.

How much does a CB licence cost?

The licence currently costs £12 per year for the first 2 units and £10 for each additional unit, free to those aged 70 years and older, no matter how many sets or channels you use.

How do I get a CB licence?

To apply for a CB licence, a completed application form must be sent to the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority. Once the application is checked to be correct we will require payment of the annual licence fee. Payments must be made payable to "Gibraltar Regulatory Authority"

How long does a licence run for?

A CB licence runs for one year from the date of issue.

Does my licence cover anyone else?

The licence has been amended so that to use CB, you either need to hold a licence yourself or be directly supervised by a licence holder. Direct supervision means that the licence holder should be in the general proximity of the non-licence holder, for example, in the same room.

Can I get a refund if I stop using CB?

No, refunds are not offered for CB licences. The licence is not offered on a 'time basis' or to cover specific items of equipment.

Do I need a licence for 'Walkie-Talkies'?

Yes, if they operate within the CB bands. A licence must cover even low power hand-held CB radios.

Note: Operation of walkie-talkies at 49 MHz is licence exempt; however, the walkie-talkies must conform to specific equipment approval requirements.

Do I need a licence for each set of CB frequencies?

No, the CB licence allows you to operate on either or both of the sets of CB frequencies.

Is the fee reduced for anyone?

Since 1 December 2002, licences have been free to those individuals who are aged 70 or over.

B) Equipment

Specific equipment requirements that must be met

The following services operate in Gibraltar:

1. **MPT 1382 (December 1997)**

26.965 MHz - 27.405 MHz (CEPT) or ("EU")

27.60125 MHz - 27.99125 MHz

or "UK" (PR 27/97)

This equipment provides the option for any combination of channels from the "EU" or "UK" bands.

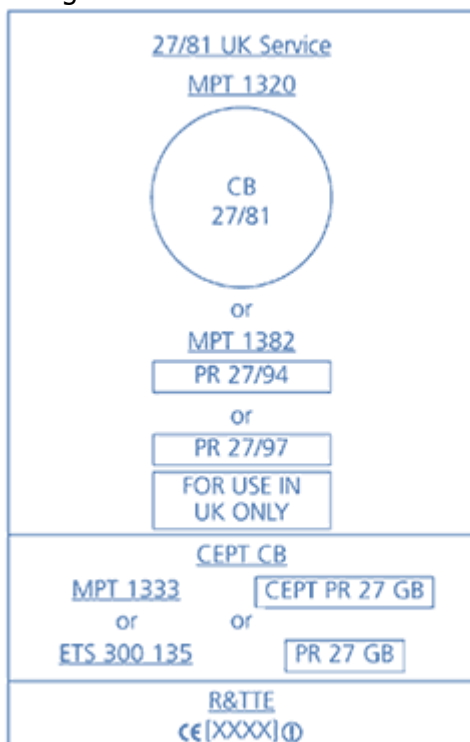
As indicated above there are two sets of frequency bands allocated to Citizens' Band Radio (CB) in Gibraltar. This Section gives details on aspects of operation and types of equipment that can be used together with some information on ancillary equipment.

What is legal CB?

"Legal CB" refers to CB equipment in conformance with the above. A legal CB Station will in addition, use an antenna (aerial) that conforms to the restrictions contained in the CB licence and repeated in this Section.

How can I recognise legal CB equipment?

All legal CB radios bear a mark to show that they comply with the specifications. These are:



XXXX denotes the identification number of the Notified Body if relevant

Can I use radios designed for more than one CB service?

Only radios type-approved to, or based on MPT 1382 (December 1997) (marked "PR27/97 - for use in UK only") may be used. These provide the option of any combination of channels from both the UK 27/81 and the CEPT frequencies. The use of any other combined equipment is strictly prohibited.

Can I use converted equipment?

No, you may not use equipment that has been altered in any way. This includes radios that have been fitted with proprietary conversion boards. Converted equipment will not meet the specification and can cause interference to other radio users.

Which modes of modulation may be used?

Only Frequency (FM) or Phase (PM) Modulation may be used. The use of Amplitude Modulation (AM) or Single Sideband (SSB) in the Gibraltar is strictly prohibited. However, the GRA is currently reviewing its policy following the publication of a European AM/SSB standard. This standard has not been adopted in Gibraltar.

Can I use packet radio?

No. The use of data (other than signals of less than 21/2 seconds in length which are intended to call up any other CB station) or signals of less than 1 second in length that are intended to identify a CB station (or to mark the end of a message sent by a CB station) is strictly prohibited.

Which frequencies may be used?

The channels available for CB are shown below. No other frequencies can be used.

What is the maximum power allowed?

The maximum transmitter RF carrier power output allowed is 4 Watts and the antenna is restricted as described below. (In the case of equipment with an integral antenna, the maximum effective radiated carrier power is limited to 4W).

Can I use ancillary equipment?

The use of power microphones, echo boxes and speech processors is not illegal but neither is it recommended - they offer no advantages when used with FM/PM and can cause interference. The microphone is subject to conformance requirements and hence must not be replaced with a different type of microphone. Locking push-to-talk microphones are not allowed.

One piece of equipment that is now legal is a "chat-back unit"; this is felt to be of particular benefit to the blind. It allows the use of a voice simulator to inform users which channel they are operating on. Use of an antenna receiver pre-amplifier for 27 MHz is prohibited however; you may use a mechanical antenna switch. You may also use meters to set up a station. The use of power amplifiers (burners, boots etc.) is strictly prohibited.

Can I use a VSWR power meter?

Yes, you can use a Voltage Standing Wave Ratio (VSWR) meter and an output power meter to set up a station, but they must be removed before the station is used as they may cause interference if left in place.

Antennas for 27 MHz CB

The following types of antenna are legal:

1. A single, vertical, omnidirectional monopole, the driven element of which does not exceed 6.95m in length or 55mm in diameter, including any loading coils and associated circuitry and casings, but excluding any plates, radial wires or rods designed to act as a ground plane or counterpoise, which are located at the physical base of the antenna; and
2. A single, vertical, omnidirectional dipole antenna not exceeding 5.55m in length.

Please note that the use of a loop, yagi or any type of beam antenna is prohibited.

Are there any height restrictions for CB antennas?

No, apart from local planning restrictions and a requirement that within 1 km of airfields the overall height of the antenna plus mast must be less than 15m.

CB Channels used in Gibraltar

The performance Specification MPT 1333 was withdrawn in January 1995 and no equipment type approved to that Specification is permitted to be manufactured or imported from that date.

MPT 1382 (December 1997)

Frequency (MHz)	Channel Number	Frequency (MHz)	Channel Number
26.965	EU 1	27.60125	UK 1
26.975	EU 2	27.61125	UK 2
26.985	EU 3	27.62125	UK 3
27.005	EU 4	27.63125	UK 4
27.015	EU 5	27.64125	UK 5
27.025	EU 6	27.65125	UK 6
27.035	EU 7	27.66125	UK 7
27.055	EU 8	27.67125	UK 8
27.065	EU 9	27.68125	UK 9
27.075	EU 10	27.69125	UK 10
27.085	EU 11	27.70125	UK 11
27.105	EU 12	27.71125	UK 12
27.115	EU 13	27.72125	UK 13
27.125	EU 14	27.73125	UK 14
27.135	EU 15	27.74125	UK 15
27.155	EU 16	27.75125	UK 16
27.165	EU 17	27.76125	UK 17
27.175	EU 18	27.77125	UK 18
27.185	EU 19	27.78125	UK 19
27.205	EU 20	27.79125	UK 20
27.215	EU 21	27.80125	UK 21
27.225	EU 22	27.81125	UK 22
27.255	EU 23	27.82125	UK 23
27.235	EU 24	27.83125	UK 24

27.245	EU 25	27.84125	UK 25
27.265	EU 26	27.85125	UK 26
27.275	EU 27	27.86125	UK 27
27.285	EU 28	27.87125	UK 28
27.295	EU 29	27.88125	UK 29
27.305	EU 30	27.89125	UK 30
27.315	EU 31	27.90125	UK 31
27.325	EU 32	27.91125	UK 32
27.335	EU 33	27.92125	UK 33
27.345	EU 34	27.93125	UK 34
27.355	EU 35	27.94125	UK 35
27.365	EU 36	27.95125	UK 36
27.375	EU 37	27.96125	UK 37
27.385	EU 38	27.97125	UK 38
27.395	EU 39	27.98125	UK 39
27.405	EU 40	27.99125	UK 40

C) Additional information

Can I use my CB radio abroad?

You will not be permitted to use CB equipment abroad, This licence is only valid for Gibraltar. Use of CB equipment abroad, with EU channels only, as denoted in and based on ETS 300 135 is likely to be permitted, but you must check with the administration of the country concerned whether it may be used and whether any conditions apply.

When operating abroad, licensees must obtain a licence in the country where the equipment is to be used and must comply with the conditions of the said licence. Licensees should ensure that they carry with them their current licence.

Can CB licensees from CEPT countries operate in Gibraltar?

No, Gibraltar is not part of CEPT and therefore any visiting CB radio operator needs to apply for a licence with the GRA prior to entering in Gibraltar.

Legal CB equipment will be marked as CEPT PR 27 + the symbol indicating original country where type-approval occurred.

e.g. equipment type-approved in France will be marked:
CEPT PR 27 F

Code of Practice

The operating conditions of the CB service have been deliberately made simple with few restrictions. Although it has always been made clear that no-one has preferential rights at any time or place or on any channel, a recommended voluntary Code of Practice has been agreed by CB User Groups in the UK and is printed in the UK CB Radio Licence Terms, Provisions and Limitations Booklet. Among other things the Code asks that priority be given to calls for help, and in particular recommends that Channel 9 be left clear for emergencies and assistance only. All operators are asked to follow the Code and so promote good operating practice within the CB service.