

EUROPEAN RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

ERC Decision
of 23 November 1998
on Exemption from Individual
Licensing of
PMR 446 equipment

(ERC/DEC/(98)26)



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1 INTRODUCTION

Licensing is an appropriate tool for Administrations to regulate the use of radio equipment and the efficient use of the frequency spectrum. However, the technical characteristics of radio equipment require less intervention from the Administrations as far as the installation and use of equipment is concerned. Administrations and especially users, retailers and manufacturers will benefit from a more deregulated system of authorising the use of radio equipment.

2 BACKGROUND

There is a general agreement that when the efficient use of the frequency spectrum is not at risk and as long as harmful interference is unlikely, the installation and use of radio equipment might be exempted from licence.

In general the CEPT Administrations apply similar systems of licensing and exemption from individual licensing. However, different criteria are used to decide whether radio equipment should be licensed or exempted from an individual licence.

The free movement of radio equipment and the provision of Pan European wide services will be greatly assisted when all CEPT Administrations would exempt the same categories of radio equipment from licensing and apply -to achieve that- the same criteria to decide on this.

When radio equipment is subject to an exemption from individual licensing, anyone can buy, install, possess and use the radio equipment without any prior individual permission from the Administration. Furthermore, the Administration will not register the individual equipment. The use of the equipment can be subject to general provisions or general licence.

3 REQUIREMENT FOR AN ERC DECISION

ERC/REC 01-07 that was adopted in 1995 listed harmonised criteria for the Administrations to decide whether an exemption of individual licence should be applied. The aim of this Decision is to exempt PMR 446 equipment from individual licensing because they fulfil the criteria for exemption listed in ERC/REC 01-07.

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The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

considering:

- a) that within the CEPT Administrations there is a growing awareness of a need for harmonisation of licensing regimes in order to facilitate the free circulation of radio equipment;
- b) that it therefore would be desirable for CEPT Administrations to have common licence regimes at their disposal in order to control the installation, ownership and use of radio equipment;
- c) that there is a strong desire within the CEPT Administrations to improve efficiency by reducing the control exercised by Administrations in the form of mandatory provisions;
- d) that there is considerable difference in national licensing, laws and regulations and that harmonisation therefore can only be introduced gradually;
- e) that national licensing regimes should be as simple as possible, in order to minimise the burden upon the Administrations and users of equipment;
- f) that intervention by the national Administrations with respect to the use of radio equipment should in general not exceed the level necessary for the efficient use of the frequency spectrum;
- g) that Administrations should work towards the exemption of relevant radio equipment from individual licensing based on harmonised criteria detailed in ERC/REC 01-07;

noting:

- (a) that PMR 446 equipment as defined in ERC/DEC/(98)25 operates within the 446.000-446.100 MHz band providing short range voice communications;
- (b) that PMR 446 equipment complying with ETS 300 296 also fulfil the criteria for exemption listed in ERC/REC 01-07;

DECIDES

1. to exempt PMR 446 equipment that fulfil noting a) and b) from individual licensing;
2. that this Decision shall enter into force on 1 December 1998 at the latest;
3. that CEPT Administrations shall communicate the national measures implementing this Decision to the ERC Chairman and the ERO when the Decision is nationally implemented.

European Radiocommunications Committee Decision

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As of 15 February 1999 the following CEPT Members have committed themselves to apply the terms of this Decision:

Croatia
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
Germany
Iceland
Netherlands
Spain
Turkey
United Kingdom

After 15 February 1999 the following CEPT Members have committed themselves to apply the terms of this Decision:

Czech Republic

Note:

Please check the ERO web site (<http://www.ero.dk>) for the up to date position on the implementation of this and other ERC Decisions