

From Dave McQue, Honorary Secretary of the United Kingdom Radio Control Council.

In respect of this consultation my Council wish to have the following addition made to table 2.20 of the draft IR 2030, which refers to Model Control.

Frequency band.	2400 – 2483.5 MHz
Power.	100mW e.i.r.p.
Channel spacing	1 MHz
Reference	EN 300 – 440

Equipment complying with this specification has been available in the USA for the sport of radio controlled model aircraft flying for about a year. It has been welcomed as the greatest equipment advance for the sport for over 30 years by the American Academy of Aeronautics. One feature that of automatic frequency channel selection is a particular boon to Flight Safety. On the other bands clubs have to enforce strict frequency control on their members but mistakes can occur and they may have no control over casual users in adjacent properties. A similar situation exists in the UK and causes problems when users fail to cooperate in the sharing of municipal fields.

AS regards the actual performance of the new gear, there is wealth of user experience recorded at www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?=-452817

Although the current equipment has been cautiously designated by the manufacturers for use by those flying small “Park Flyers”. Users experience has indicated a greater potential. The use of two channels for diversity reception has no doubt been an aid. Interestingly experience has also not show any problems from other higher powered users of the band. So called “Full Range” systems, to the same specification, but using wider spaced receiving antennas, are already under test and will appear later this year.

The equipment is also in use in both Australia and New Zealand so the potential for International competitions on this international allocation is apparent. It is to be hoped that the UK can set the lead in its introduction to the EC as we did over the harmonising of the 35 MHz band. Even France may be able to comply.

It should be noted that model flying operations take place in open areas away from other potential users of the band. In any case the protocols used are designed to avoid the signals of others.

Some 35,000 model flyers are members of the BMFA, about half the total. In the UK modellers are served by over 300 specialised Model shops

While it was once thought that EN 300 328 might apply it is clearly aimed at DSSS systems with channel bandwidths of 10 MHz or more. The 1MHz channelling has been demonstrated to allow more than 20 models to be controlled simultaneously and is appropriate to this application.

Dave McQue 18.6.06