



UK LEGAL RADIO MIC FREQUENCY GUIDE

When using radiomicrophones it is important to use the right frequencies. There are different sets of frequencies suitable for different purposes. Some require a licence while others do not. The following information gives a brief guide to find the most appropriate solution.

Frequencies – No Licence Required

These frequencies are available throughout the UK, indoors or outdoors, without a licence. There is availability at VHF and UHF and the frequencies are detailed below.

All new equipment should use the following frequencies:

VHF	UHF
173-800MHz, 174-000MHz, 174-200MHz, 174-400MHz 174-600MHz 174-800MHz 175-000MHz	863 – 865MHz

Older VHF equipment may continue to use the legacy frequencies:

VHF
173-800MHz, 174-100MHz, 174-500MHz, 174-800MHz 175-000MHz

There is the potential for interference from other radiomicrophones and radio devices such as hearing aids and cordless headsets. You may find that licence exempt frequencies suit your purposes but if you want to reduce the likelihood of interference, shared or co-ordinated frequencies may better suit.

Licensed Frequencies – free roaming

Frequencies dedicated for radiomicrophones, known as Shared, are available across the UK, with some small exceptions. A licence, which must be purchased from JFMG Ltd, is required to operate radiomicrophones on these frequencies which must be purchased from JFMG Ltd.

There are VHF Shared frequencies and UHF (Channel 69) Shared frequencies.

VHF (MHz)	UHF (Channel 69) (MHz)
175.250* 191.900 199.700 208.300 216.100	854.900 855.275 855.900 856.175 856.575
175.525* 192.800 200.300 208.600 216.600	857.625 857.950 858.200 858.650 860.400
176.600* 193.000 200.600 209.000 216.800	860.900 861.200 861.550 861.750

* Not available in Northern Ireland

A licence to use all the VHF shared frequencies is £80 (£75 on-line) for one year and £145 (£135 on-line) for two years. A licence to use all the UHF shared frequencies is £80 (£75 on-line) for one year and £145 (£135 on-line) for two years. Two licences are required to use both VHF and UHF frequencies. Care must be taken when using multiple frequencies from these sets. Interference problems may result from interaction between the multiple frequencies known as intermodulation.

Licences on these frequencies are available to all users, and Shared frequencies can be liable to interference from other licensed shared radiomicrophones. However, they are most suitable for users who require 'go anywhere' radio mics, to locations where they are not likely to come across other users.

At busier locations, and to avoid the possibility of interference from other users of shared radio mics, users are advised to use co-ordinated frequencies.

Licensed Frequencies – for specific locations

Co-ordinated frequencies are licensed for specific locations by JFMG to minimise interference to the user from other licensed radiomicrophones and radio users. Applications for these frequencies are 'co-ordinated' against other assignments coinciding in frequency and time. There are co-ordinated frequencies at VHF, UHF (Channel 69) and in the UHF television bands.

VHF (MHz)	UHF (Channel 69) (MHz)
176.400* 192.300 200.100 207.700	Indoor use: from 854.250 to 862.000
177.000* 208.100	Outdoor use: from 854.250 to 858.750 and from 859.750 to 862.000

* Not available in Northern Ireland

The frequency range 470 – 854MHz, used for television broadcasting, can be assigned for radiomicrophones where they do not cause interference to television reception or are liable to suffer interference from television transmissions. The pattern of television coverage however is complex and constantly changing so contact JFMG to determine whether given frequencies are available to be licensed at a particular location.

Licence fees

Licence fees for co-ordinated frequencies are:

£8 per 48 hour period, minimum charge £24.

Annual charge for fixed sites, £24 per frequency or £96 per block of frequencies.

Regardless of whether you use licence exempt or licensed radiomicrophone frequencies, multiple radiomicrophones used at the same location can interact and interfere with each other. This is known as intermodulation. Take particular care which frequencies you use together to avoid these problems.

This document gives only brief details of the frequencies available for radiomicrophones and the licence fees that apply. Further information can be found on the JFMG website.

JFMG Limited issues licences for Radio Microphones, Talkback, Sound Links, Vision Links. It manages the radio spectrum used in the UK for programme making and related activities and is an Agent of Ofcom.

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Please note that due to the proposed digital switchover in the UK, commencing in 2008, there may be important implications for the use of frequencies in this spectrum. Plans may be finalised in June 2006. Please refer to Ofcom's website for details and updates. www.ofcom.org.uk