

This information sheet provides details about Private Business Radio (PBR). A business radio system is used to pass messages between a base station and mobile sets and mobile to mobile as an aid to conducting business. The different Business Radio licences allow the licensee to operate different types of systems in accordance with licence conditions and Wireless Telegraphy legislation.

Short Range Business Paging

OfW116 (formerly Radiocommunications Agency information sheets RA 280 and RA 282)

1. Introduction

This leaflet explains the Short Range Business Paging (SRBP) service, the SRBP licence and the benefits and responsibilities of SRBP use. It also contains information for suppliers and manufacturers of SRBP equipment.

2. What is SRBP?

SRBP is a short-range service providing one-way paging (tone or text messages) for business use. A base station sends messages to nearby pocket units, which receive messages but cannot transmit them. The range of the service varies; it may reach 400 metres in open country, but will be less in built-up areas.

To use the service, you need a licence. This permits you to use short range business paging systems in connection with your business, as long as you follow the licence conditions. Once you have a licence, you can use your paging system(s) without needing to give notice to Ofcom (the Office of Communications) or to wait for an individual channel to be assigned to you. There is no licence fee.

Please note that you may not connect SRBP pagers to a telephone system.

3. Does SRBP meet my needs?

SRBP offers one-way, non-speech communications only.

The frequencies used for SRBP are shared with other SRBP users, without any planning or control by Ofcom. We will not get involved in channel-sharing or co-channel interference disputes between SRBP users. Also, we cannot guarantee that the SRBP channels will be usable at any given location and time; this means that the service is not suitable for safety-of-life use, or if you need a channel with planned control of paging use.

If you require protected paging, with guaranteed access and Ofcom's assistance to resolve interference or channel-sharing disputes, consider using paging alternatives such as On-Site Local Communications, Self-Select One-Way Paging and Wide Area One-Way Paging and Speech. Our information booklet Of20 contains details – see Section 10.

4. How do I get a licence?

To apply for a SRBP licence, you need to complete application form Of21 and return it to Ofcom. You can obtain the form from the Ofcom Contact Centre or download it from our website (see Section 10 below). If you complete the form correctly, your licence will normally be dispatched within 10 working days of receipt.

A licensee may be an individual, a limited company, a partnership or another organisation. The pagers must be used only for the licensee's business, and must be under the licensee's control and authority. Please note that a licence does **not** guarantee that a paging channel will be available at any particular place and time with capacity to carry your messages.

If your equipment supplier has a PBR Suppliers licence, this allows you to use your paging system for a short period immediately after purchase while your application is being processed. Your supplier will tell you if this is the case. Otherwise, you should not use your paging system until you have a valid licence. (If you are a supplier and you wish to obtain a PBR Suppliers licence, which also allows you to demonstrate SRBP equipment, please obtain our leaflet and application form OfW115 – see Section 10.)

5. What are the equipment requirements?

Ask your supplier for a paging system suitable for the SRBP service. The base station and pocket units must:

- be tuned **only** to the SRBP channels;
- transmit in the correct power range – up to 500 mW effective radiated power (ERP); and
- comply with the UK radio interface requirement IR2003 or (if it was placed on the market before 8 April 2000) the performance specification MPT 1305. Both IR2003 and MPT 1305 are available from Ofcom – see Section 10.

Your supplier can advise on all these matters, but it is your responsibility to comply with the licence conditions.

You must not use accessories that affect any pager characteristics, and you should check that any replacement antenna you use will not cause you to break the licence conditions.

6. What channels are available?

Two channels are available for SRBP use, at 449.4875 MHz and 461.3000 MHz. The channels are 12.5 kHz wide. The 449.4875 MHz channel may be used anywhere in the UK. 461.3000 MHz may **not** be used in Northern Ireland under any circumstances, and use in England, Scotland and Wales must cease by 31 December 2006 so that Ofcom can realign the 450 to 470 MHz frequency band. Our leaflet OfW37 contains more information about the realignment process – see Section 10.

The SRBP channels are shared by other users, and may become busy and congested in some areas – especially where population and business activity is high. As the use of SRBP increases, the channels may become increasingly crowded in urban areas. You may also experience occasional interference from France.

7. Using SRBP sensibly

Please use SRBP pagers for your own business communications **only**. We expect that the channels will become particularly busy in cities and places where large numbers of people gather (e.g. sporting events), so please help other users by restricting your pager use to short and essential business messages.

Assuming that all users keep their transmissions short, you should not experience sharing difficulties. Address coding, channel sensing or an alternative may increase reliability and give better performance in areas where several users share the SRBP channels – ask your dealer or the Ofcom Contact Centre (see Section 10) for more information.

8. Changing the details on your licence

If you change your name, your address or any other details given on your licence application form, please contact the Ofcom Contact Centre (see Section 10). Licences are not transferable from one licensee to another – if your legal identity changes, you will need to apply for a new licence.

9. Industry associations

A manufacturers and suppliers forum has been set up to promote SRBP. The On-Site Communications Association is also interested in SRBP. However, you do not need to be a member of these bodies to make or sell SRBP equipment.

10. Further information

If you have an enquiry about SRBP please contact your equipment supplier or the Ofcom Contact Centre. However, please remember that SRBP is an unprotected service and Ofcom cannot get involved in channel-sharing disputes between SRBP users.

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