VHF maritime mobile band – Channel allocations

Maritime radio in Australia provides search and rescue assistance to ships in distress, while also providing commercial and recreational communications uses for maritime purposes.

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Frequencies

Frequency		Channel	Use
From ships (MHz)	From Coast (MHz)		
156.025	160.625	60	Public Correspondence

Frequency		Channel	Use
From ships (MHz)	From Coast (MHz)		
156.050	160.650	01	Public Correspondence
156.075	160.675	61	Public Correspondence
156.100	160.700	02	Public Correspondence
156.125	160.725	62	Public Correspondence
156.150	160.750	03	Public Correspondence
156.175	160.775	63	Public Correspondence
156.200	160.800	04	Public Correspondence
156.225	160.825	64	Port Operations
156.250	160.850	05	Public Correspondence
156.275	160.875	65	Port Operations
156.300		06	Search and Rescue
160.900	160.900	2006*	Autonomous Maritime Radio Device Group B and experimental use for future applications or systems
156.325	160.925	66	Public Correspondence
156.350	160.950	07	Public Correspondence
156.375	156.375	67	Supplementary to Ch16 (for Distress urgency and Safety)
156.400		08	Port Operations and Commercial Operations

Frequency		Channel	Use
From ships (MHz)	From Coast (MHz)		
156.425	156.425	68	Port Operations
156.450	156.450	09	Port Operations
156.500	156.500	10	Port Operations
156.525	156.525	70	Digital Selective Calling – Distress, Safety and Calling
156.550	156.550	11	Port Operations
156.575	156.575	71	Professional Fishing
156.600	156.600	12	Port Operations
156.625		72	Port Operations, Commercial and Non-Commercial Operations and Professional Fishing
156.650	156.650	13	Port Operations, Distress, urgency and safety
156.675	156.675	73	Non-commercial Operations
156.700	156.700	14	Port Operations
156.725	156.725	74	Commercial Operations
156.750	156.750	15	Commercial Operations
156.775	156.775	75#	Automatic Identification System Satellite

Frequency		Channel	Use
From ships (MHz)	From Coast (MHz)		
156.800	156.800	16	Distress, Safety and Calling
156.825	156.825	76#	Automatic Identification System Satellite
156.850	156.850	17	Commercial Operations
156.875		77	Professional Fishing, Non-commercial Operations
156.900	161.500	18	Port Operations
156.925	161.525	78	Commercial Operations
156.950	156.950	1019	Port Operations
	161.550	2019	Port Operations
156.975	161.575	79	Port Operations
157.000	161.600	20	Port Operations
157.025	161.625	80^	Repeater (distress, urgency, safety and ship movement)
157.050	161.650	21^	Repeater (distress, urgency, safety and ship movement)
157.075	161.675	81^	Repeater (distress, urgency, safety and ship movement) and Public Correspondence

Frequency		Channel	Use
From ships (MHz)	From Coast (MHz)		
157.100	161.700	22^	Repeater (distress, urgency, safety and ship movement)
157.125	161.725	82^	Repeater (distress, urgency, safety and ship movement)
157.150	161.750	23	Public Correspondence
157.175	161.775	83	Public Correspondence
157.200	161.800	24	VHF Data Exchange System
157.200	157.200	1024	VHF Data Exchange System
161.800	161.800	2024	VHF Data Exchange System
157.225	161.825	84	VHF Data Exchange System
157.225	157.225	1084	VHF Data Exchange System
161.825	161.825	2084	VHF Data Exchange System
157.250	161.850	25	VHF Data Exchange System
157.250	157.250	1025	VHF Data Exchange System
161.850	161.850	2025	VHF Data Exchange System

Frequency		Channel	Use
From ships (MHz)	From Coast (MHz)		
157.275	161.875	85	VHF Data Exchange System
157.275	157.275	1085	VHF Data Exchange System
161.875	161.875	2085	VHF Data Exchange System
157.300	161.900	26	VHF Data Exchange System
157.300		1026	VHF Data Exchange System
	161.900	2026	VHF Data Exchange System
157.325	161.925	86	VHF Data Exchange System
157.325		1086	VHF Data Exchange System
	161.925	2086	VHF Data Exchange System
157.350	157.350	1027	Port Operations
161.950	161.950	ASM1 (2027)	Application Specific Messaging
157.375	157.375	87	Port Operations
157.400	157.400	1028	Port Operations
162.000	162.000	ASM2 (2028)	Application Specific Messaging

Frequency		Channel	Use
From ships (MHz)	From Coast (MHz)		
157.425	157.425	88	Port Operations
161.975	161.975	AIS1	Automatic Identification System
162.025	162.025	AIS2	Automatic Identification System

* Channel 2006 is designated for autonomous maritime radio device group B (AMRD Group B) that do not enhance the safety of navigation, using Automatic Identification System (AIS) technology. This channel may also be used for experimental use for future applications or systems so long as the operation does not cause harmful interference to, or claim protection from, stations operating in the fixed and mobile services, including the use of AMRD Group B (Appendix 18 (REV. WRC-19) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radio Regulations).

Channels 75 and 76 may also be used for the purpose of navigation-related communications so long as the output power does not exceed 1 W in accordance with Appendix 18 (REV. WRC-19) of the ITU Radio Regulations.

^ The licensee must use this carrier frequency only if direct ship-to-ship or ship-to-shore communications on other carrier frequencies are not practicable.

Channels 24, 84, 25 and 85 may be merged in order to form a unique duplex channel with a bandwidth of 100 kHz in order to operate the VDES terrestrial component described in the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.2092 (WRC-15) of the ITU.

Regulation

A large block of spectrum for maritime purposes is provided for in the VHF maritime mobile band. The VHF maritime mobile band consists of channels operating in the frequency range 156.000 MHz to 162.050 MHz, apart from those portions within this frequency range that are allocated to the land mobile service.

The regulatory framework that regulates channel arrangements and uses in Australia is provided for in the instruments identified below. The following VHF maritime mobile band channel allocations are to be read in conjunction with these legislative instruments.

- Radiocommunications Licence Conditions (Maritime Coast Licence) Determination 2025
- Radiocommunications Licence Conditions (Maritime Ship Licence) Determination 2025
- Radiocommunications (Maritime Ship Station) Class Licence 2025

Further information

Maritime ship licence

Maritime coast licence

Watch our video: Digital Selective Calling and marine radio