

Your Company
Your Name
Your Address

Eu Member organization
Eu Member contact
Eu Member Address

2 April 2018

RFID community supports the harmonization of the 915-921 MHz frequency band

Dear [name]:

I am contacting you to make you aware of the ongoing developments in RFID technology. As a user of RFID technology there are some key issues around the use of the allocated frequencies in Europe which will affect what we can supply to you and what you will be able to do with the technology in Europe.

The UHF band 915-921 MHz is crucial for the global development of IoT technologies, including RFID. Everyone is ready for implementations: standards have been adopted, markets are ready for roll-out.

In 2017, the European Rail industry asked to delay allocation of the 918-921 MHz band for IoT devices until 2019, because CEPT FM56 needs the time to determine whether this band, adjacent to the current GSM-R band (921-925 MHz), is desirable for the migration of current radio-communication systems from 2G to 4G technologies.

To find a compromise, the European Commission held a workshop on 19 June 2017. The organizers thereafter asked the IoT and Rail communities to advise by September 22, 2017, whether it would “be feasible for each community to share the 918-921 MHz frequency band in order to reach European harmonization and if yes, what will be the impacts of this restriction?”

The EU commission proposed a "squeezed option" for RFID and IoT resulting in 915-919.4 MHz. The RFID community via RAIN, AIM, GS1, and ConnectWave (formally CNRFID) answered timely and positively, agreeing that the 919.4-921 MHz frequency band would be preserved for GSM-R until 2019.

The RFID community believes it is feasible to use the so-called “squeeze” option (915-919.4 MHz) introduced by the EC at the June workshop:

- with immediate effect for EU Member States that have already implemented the 915-921 MHz frequency band, as per ERC/REC 70-03;
- in the near future for EU Member States that have not yet implemented 915-921 MHz per ERC/REC 70-03.

The use of this band is essential to the successful deployment of RFID in Europe and although this squeeze plan will result in slightly lower performance than the original band plan as detailed in ETSI EN 302-208, the

RFID community supports the European Commission's proposal for rapid harmonisation of the 915-919.4 MHz band for IoT applications in Europe, and also for the preservation of the 919.4-921 MHz frequency band until 2019, when CEPT FM56 work is completed and the feasibility of operating Rail radio-communication systems in this band is confirmed.

We would like you to contact your national regulatory member and ask them to approve the current squeeze plan as discussed at the last RC Com meeting so that RFID can be installed in Europe at a level that will keep us competitive with the rest of the world. The vote on this issue will be very soon and we need to ensure that there are sufficient votes to allow us to proceed, or UHF RFID will be put on hold for some indeterminate amount of time and Europe as a whole, and your company specifically will be at a disadvantage to the rest of the world.

Please forward the attached letter to your representative. A list of representatives by country is attached.

Your support on this matter would be highly appreciated and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Company]