

Variation to the Radiocommunications (Low Interference Potential Devices) Class Licence 2000

The ACMA approved a variation to the Radiocommunications (Low Interference Potential Devices) Class Licence 2000 (the LIPD) on 25 June 2009. This variation is particularly important to the launch of digital radio in Australia, as it authorises the use of digital audio broadcasting repeaters in the 174–230 MHz band. The repeaters will be used by retailers to support the sale of digital radio receivers. The digital radio start-up day for metropolitan licence areas was 1 July 2009.

This is the second variation to the LIPD made by the ACMA in the past six months; the ACMA's responsiveness is necessary to keep pace with the rapid rate of technological change and business innovation.

Other changes to the LIPD with the variation are:

- > insertion of definitions for digital audio broadcasting and effective radiated power
- > addition of a new transmitter class for in-store system pricing transmitters in the 0.0366–0.0402 MHz band
- > deletion of an existing item authorising medical implant telemetry system transmitters, as it has been superseded by other classes of transmitters authorised by the LIPD
- > amendments to existing items to:
 - clarify that the radiated power spectral density limit for radio local area networks in the 5150–5250 MHz band is relative to an isotropic radiator
 - add an alternative unit of measurement for wireless audio transmitters (the effective radiated power (ERP) value) to the existing specified limit.

Under the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*, all radiocommunications devices within Australia must be authorised by a radiocommunications licence. Class licensing is a type of licence that sets out the conditions under which any person is permitted to operate any device to which the class licence is applicable. It is not issued to an individual user, and does not involve the payment of licence fees. The ACMA issues class licences, which are registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments.

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Detailed information about the Australian launch of digital radio is available at www.digitalradioplus.com.au.