

# New commercial code of practice registered for Australian music

A new commercial radio code of practice for Australian music has been registered by the ACMA.


Code 4 of the Commercial Radio Australia-developed Commercial Radio Australia Codes of Practice sets quotas for the broadcast of Australian music by commercial radio licensees. The ACMA has agreed to register a temporary exemption from the Australian music obligations for new digital-only services. This should enable early experimentation in formats and is consistent with the regulatory approach taken for digital television services.

Digital-only services are defined in the code as services broadcast using DAB+ technology and not also simulcast in analog. There has been no change to the level of Australian music that analog or simulcast services are required to broadcast.

Code 4 is the last code to be registered following an extensive review of the Commercial Radio Codes of Practice 2004. In February 2010, the ACMA registered Commercial Radio Codes 1 to 3 and 5 to 8, which relate to matters such as material that should not be broadcast, requirements for accuracy in news and current affairs, privacy protections, the rules for advertising, and a responsive complaints procedure.

The ACMA withheld the registration of Code 4 at this time because it was not satisfied that CRA had given members of the public an adequate opportunity to comment on its proposal to exempt digital services from the Australian music requirements.

At the ACMA's request, CRA consulted on the proposed digital exemption for six weeks in February and March 2010 and presented Code 4 to the Authority for registration under the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*.

CRA is also developing new codes relating to the protection of participants in commercial radio in response to the findings of the ACMA's investigation into live hosted programs. 

For more information on the ACMA's review of the commercial radio standards, visit the ACMA website at [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au) (go to For licensees & industry: Licensing & regulation > Legislation, codes & standards > Codes & standards > Broadcasting codes index > Registration of Commercial Radio Code 4: Australian music).