

**Proposal for the IARU Region 1 Committee  
C4 Interim Meeting  
April 2019 - Vienna**

Subject:	<b>Telegraphy sub-band protection during non-CW contests</b>
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### **Introduction**

Telegraphy was used in the early days of the amateur radio and was the exclusive mode for many years. Morse code knowledge was mandatory for obtaining an amateur radio license in all countries and after the regulations evolved to allow access to the amateur broadcast to non-telegraphists, access to all the amateur radio privileges had only recently been possible without having proved their knowledge of the Morse code. Telegraphy has had a profound impact on the history of the amateur program and can be considered today as part of the DNA of the amateur radio community.

Today, while all other international radio services have abandoned this mode, the preservation of this heritage is the sole preserve of amateurs, like wind sailing is the preserve of amateur sailors.

Telegraphy thus remains a mode which has a specific place among all the modes authorized to radio amateurs.

### **Background**

Interest in telegraphy remains very strong. These interest and practice are driven by many clubs or organizations of radio amateurs.

Among radio amateurs, one practice remains important, that of emission using low powers, so called QRP. A large part of these amateurs uses telegraphy, in the portions of the sub-bands dedicated to telegraphy, where the IARU in its great wisdom has provided specific frequencies on the band plans allocated to radio amateurs.

The low-power traffic is therefore mainly grouped around these dedicated frequencies, at the upper end of the sub-bands reserved for telegraphy.

Over the years, the interest in contests in digital mode is growing, with the increase in the use of these transmission modes among radio amateurs.

The relative congestion of the sub-band dedicated to digital modes during the contest period means that some competitors may be tempted to transmit outside their sub-band.

When this occurs, these competitors frequently choose to operate on the adjacent sub-band portion reserved for telegraphy. The fact that these frequencies are also those where the low-power telegraph stations are located make them even more interesting for them that the low power used by these telegraphists makes these frequencies "quieter" than the beginning of the sub-band used by radiotelephone operators, generally using much higher transmission powers.

The impact of these digital emissions on the low-power telegraphic traffic is very impacting, since the computers of the digital operators which "listen" to the frequencies seldom distinguish a low emission in CW and can thus come scramble a CW QSO in progress.

## **Recommendation**

Considering that fair play is one of the characteristics prevailing in amateur radio contests, it is recommended that the IARU Region 1 C4 Committee at the Vienna meeting of April 2019 recognize the negative impact non-telegraphy emission have on the sub-bands used by low power telegraphy stations and recommends to IARU member organizations all actions with contest organizers whose non-telegraphy modes are authorized, among which to notify in the contest rules the strict respect of the plans IARU-approved sub-bands and the inclusion of out-of-sub-band emission to the list of sanctionable breaches, given the benefit (less crowded) at these stations compared to stations in accordance with IARU recommended banding plans.