# International Amateur Radio Union Region 1
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**Source**: RSGB - Barry Lewis, G4SJH, Microwave Manager
**Subject**: Maximum Bandwidth in IARU band plans above 1 GHz
**Committee(s)**: C5

**Summary**
The microwave and millimetre wave bands are particularly important for experimentation and innovation. Many of the amateur allocated bands are relatively wide with plenty of bandwidth for the operation of both wide and narrow bandwidth modes without creating any difficulties to either. However, the band plans are partitioned according to “mode” and in a few cases a maximum bandwidth is cited for that part of the band associated with that application. This seems mostly the case for narrow band modes.

Two examples (not an exhaustive list):

- 3401.00 – 3402.00 MHz; All Modes with Max Bandwidth = 2700Hz.
- 24.048 – 24.048800 GHz; All Modes with Max Bandwidth = 2700Hz.

Whilst it is good amateur service spectrum management practice to understand the expected bandwidth in use and introduce some order to the bands (particularly where a detailed channel arrangement is needed for simplex or repeater operation for example), some regulatory authorities take this further and have transposed these maximum bandwidths into national regulations. This is not the intention.

There seems to be no regulatory justification for mandating such narrow maximum bandwidths for “all mode” operation and when imposed as hard rules, could constrain experimentation with new applications and modes.

The RSGB proposes that the “Maximum Bandwidth” column is removed from the band plan tables above 1GHz.

**Proposals**:

1) Remove the “Maximum Bandwidth” column from the band plans in sections 1.6 to 1.16 of the VHF Managers Handbook.
2) Add relevant notes into the “Usage” column if there is a need to be specific about operational bandwidth, and/or consider footnotes for beacon / weak-signal segment priority.

**Financial Implications**:

None directly.