

Our reference: 24-487

This document is a non-binding translation to English of the Swedish Decision published 5 June 2024

Decision to limit the number of licences in parts of the 1800 MHz band

Matter

The limitation of the number of licences in a frequency band Chapter 3, Section 9 of the Swedish Electronic Communications Act (2022:482) (LEK)

The Post and Telecom Authority's decision

The Post and Telecom Authority decides to limit the number of licences to use radio transmitters in parts of the 1800 MHz band (1 710–1 720 MHz/1 755–1 780 MHz and 1 805–1 815 MHz/1 850–1 875 MHz) to a maximum of seven licences. A licence can consist of more than one frequency block. The division of the available frequencies into frequency blocks comprises seven blocks of 2×5 MHz (FDD¹).

Background

The frequency band 1800 MHz (1 710–1 785 MHz and 1 805–1 880 MHz) is, with the exception of the upper frequency block consisting of 2×5 MHz, allocated as national block licences. Licences in parts of the band, corresponding to 2×35 MHz, expire on December 31, 2027. Remaining licences in the band expire on December 31, 2037.

¹ FDD – Frequency Division Duplex

Grounds

Applicable regulations

According to the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/173², Member States shall designate and make the frequency bands 1 710–1 785 MHz and 1 805–1 880 MHz available for terrestrial systems capable of providing electronic communications services in accordance with the conditions set out in the decision.

Pursuant to Chapter 3, Section 9 of LEK, the number of licences granted within a frequency band may be limited if necessary to ensure an efficient use of radio frequencies.

PTS’s assessment

Licences in the frequency range 1 710–1 720 MHz/1 755–1 780 MHz and 1 805–1 815 MHz/1 850–1 875 MHz expire on December 31, 2027. The mentioned frequency range, corresponding to 2×35 MHz, constitute the available frequencies covered by this decision and shall be used for terrestrial systems capable of providing electronic communications services.

PTS states that the demand for the available frequencies in the frequency band 1800 MHz exceeds the supply. In order to guarantee an effecient use of radio frequencies, the number of licences in the frequency range shall be limited through this decision.

The available frequencies are divided into frequency blocks according to Figure 1. Regarding the size of the frequency blocks, the assessment is that the frequency blocks shall comprise 2×5 MHz for FDD use. The division provides conditions for an efficient use of the frequency space and enables a technology and service neutral award of licences.



Figure 1 The figure shows the block division for the available frequency space in the 1800 MHz band

Through the block division, the number of licences is limited to a maximum of seven. A licence can consist of several frequency blocks.

² Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/173 of 7 February 2022 on the harmonisation of the 900 MHz and 1 800 MHz frequency bands for terrestrial systems capable of providing electronic communications services in the Union and repealing Decision 2009/766/EC

Notice of appeal

This decision may, pursuant to Chapter 15, Section 3, second paragraph of LEK, only be appealed in connection with an appeal on a decision to issue a licence to use radio transmitters.

This decision has been made by the general manager Dan Sjöblom. In the final case, the project manager Anna-Maria Lann (rapporteur), project lawyer Parasto Kazemi, department head Kristian Viidas, division head Tove Friberg and the general counsel Karolina Asp have participated. In addition department head Fredrik Kapper was present at the presentation.