



# Release of VHF (FM) frequencies

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## Purpose

Radiocommunications licences for the use of frequencies for radio and television broadcasting may not be put out to tender or awarded until the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) has laid down the details of the specific use of the frequencies (Art. 47 para. 3 RTVO).

Based on the Federal Council's guidelines for the use of frequencies for radio and television broadcasting (Broadcasting Frequency Guidelines) of 22 December 2010,<sup>1</sup> DETEC decides on the release of local, regional, regional-language and national frequencies.

Following the adoption of Motion 25.3950, VHF (FM) radio licences are to be newly granted or put out to tender from 1 January 2027. To this end, DETEC will determine in advance how VHF radio frequencies are to be used.

### 1 Scope and definition of frequency clusters

The release covers the frequency range in VHF Band II (87.5–108 MHz).

The use of frequencies in VHF Band II (FM) and their allocation to licensed radio broadcasters within the meaning of Articles 25, 38 and 43 RTVA are governed by the Ordinance of 9 March 2007 on Radio and Television and the Ordinance of 18 November 2020 on Use of the Radio Frequency Spectrum (RFSO).

To enable effective network planning, several frequency positions are grouped together and defined as a cluster. One VHF radio licence is granted per cluster.

### 2 Legal basis

Under Article 54 paragraph 1 RTVA, the Federal Council is responsible for ensuring that sufficient frequencies are made available to fulfil the constitutional broadcasting mandate and that access-entitled programme services can be transmitted using wireless terrestrial technology in the intended coverage area. The governing principles are set out in the Broadcasting Frequency Guidelines.

The Broadcasting Frequency Guidelines provide that, when frequencies are released, account is to be taken in particular of the needs of SRG SSR, private broadcasters, and telecommunications service providers.

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<sup>1</sup> [BBl 2011 525 – Richtlinien des Bundesrates für die Nutzung von Frequenzen für Radio und Fernsehen \(Rundfunkfrequenz-Richtlinien\) | Fedlex \(de/fr/it\)](#)



### **3 Release of frequencies**

On the basis of these requirements, VHF radio frequencies are divided into two usage groups:

- use by SRG SSR and private licensed broadcasters with a service mandate within the coverage area;
- use by registered radio broadcasters.

Frequencies that were allocated up to 2024 to provide coverage for a programming service with a service mandate and a share of the licence fee are reserved for the broadcaster holding the broadcasting licence. Unused frequencies can be put out for tender or allocated from 2027.

All other frequencies are grouped together as frequency clusters to serve specific geographical regions and are allocated by OFCOM upon application. Where several broadcasters apply for a particular frequency cluster, it will be allocated by auction.

There is no obligation to provide comprehensive coverage of the region, but at least the main transmission site must be brought into operation per radio licence.

OFCOM is responsible for allocating VHF frequencies. As a general rule, VHF radio licences will take effect from 1 January 2027 and remain valid until 2034, though the licences for the reserved frequencies may be granted at an earlier date.

### **4 Entry into force**

This release enters into force on 1 July 2026.