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**By Hand**

16 November 2005

Ms Debbie Yau  
Clerk to Panel on  
Information Technology and Broadcasting  
3/F, Citibank Tower  
3 Garden Road  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Yau,

### **Information about Sound Broadcasting**

At the special meeting of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting held on 18 October 2005, Members requested the Administration to provide information on the following:

- (a) frequencies allocated to various broadcasting/telecommunications usage, and the frequencies which could be released for other use; and
- (b) general licence conditions for sound broadcasting service.

### **Frequency allocation**

The Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) publishes the Hong Kong Frequency Allocation Chart on its website at

<http://www.ofta.gov.hk/en/freq-spec/main.html>. A copy of the chart is at **Annex** for Members' reference.

We understand that Members are interested in knowing whether there are spare frequencies available for new sound broadcasting services. Briefly, all available FM frequencies with territory-wide coverage have been assigned while two AM frequencies with territory-wide coverage are not assigned. In addition, frequencies in the L-band have been reserved for digital audio broadcasting.

### **General licence conditions for sound broadcasting service**

The Broadcasting Authority publishes the general licence conditions for sound broadcasting service on its website at <http://www.hkba.hk/en/radio/licence/conditions.html>. They are reproduced below for Members' reference:

- to apply up-to-date technology to perfect the quality of sound broadcasting and comply with broadcasting coverage requirements;
- to handle complaints and conduct training programmes to ensure that staff are familiar with the broadcasting standards;
- to provide commercial free-to-air radio services with not less than a stipulated minimum amount of comprehensive news bulletins, current affairs, programmes for young persons and senior citizens and arts and culture programmes, etc. in a specified period of time;
- to implement the plans on capital investment and programming development as approved by the Broadcasting Authority; and
- to keep proper maintenance of broadcasting equipment and transmitting stations.

According to the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106), application for a sound broadcasting licence should be made to the

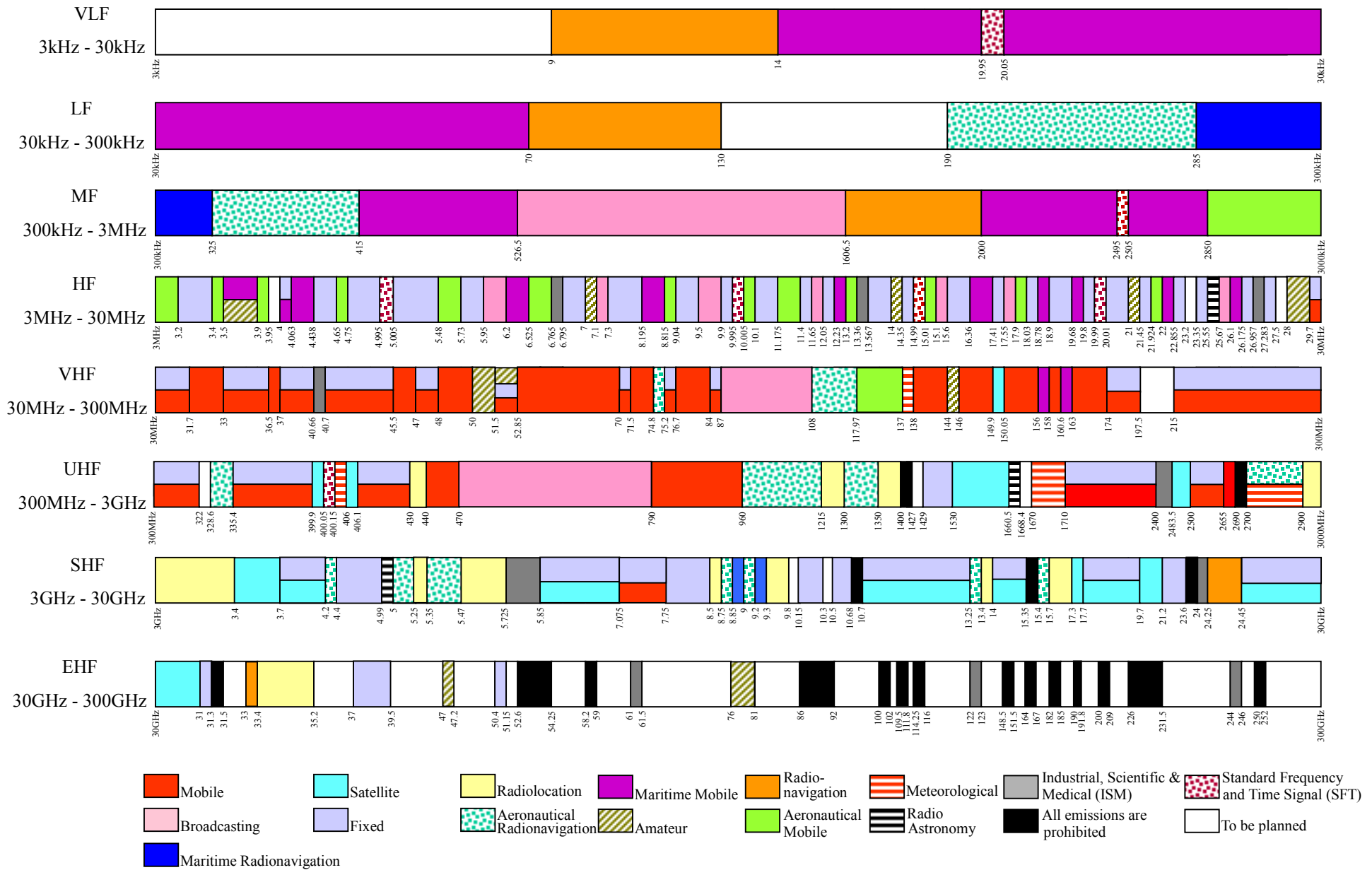
Broadcasting Authority which is obliged to make a recommendation thereon to the Chief Executive in Council who is the authority to issue the licence. Pursuant to section 13F of the Telecommunications Ordinance, such licence may be granted to or held only by a corporation that is:

- (a) a company formed and registered in Hong Kong under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32);
- (b) not a subsidiary; and
- (c) empowered under its memorandum of association to comply fully with the provisions of the Telecommunications Ordinance and the terms and conditions of its licence.

Yours sincerely,

( Eddie Cheung )  
for Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

# Hong Kong Frequency Allocation Chart



Note : The frequency chart is not drawn to scale. Details can be found in Hong Kong Table of Frequency Allocations which can be obtained from OFTA website (<http://www.ofta.gov.hk>).