



Ofcom, Digital TV switchover and Wireless microphones

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You may be aware of the ongoing changes to the frequency spectrum with regards to PMSE (radio microphone) users within the UK, if you are not then here is some information which will hopefully put you in the picture and is important when considering the purchase and use of any radio microphone system.

I will talk specifically in relation to Smart Wireless products, but this does also affect most other radio microphone systems operating in the UHF domain.

Channels 67/68 (840 to 854MHz)

Users of Turbo (T1001 etc) product will no longer be able to use the licensed frequencies from 840 to 854MHz ** due to the reallocation of the band for Digital TV use. The digital switch over involving these frequencies has now been rolled out across the country.

** these frequencies represent channels 1 to 320 on the discontinued models, T1001, T1002, T1003, T1004, T1005 and T1006.

If you are currently using these frequencies you may experience a large reduction in effective transmission range, and you should make sure that your system is retuned to unaffected channels (If you are using three or less microphones this should be to within the 863 to 865MHz band)

Users of Turbo X products should not be affected at this time as the frequency spacing of these systems takes into account the removal of Channels 67 and 68 from PMSE use

Channel 69 (854 to 862MHz)

The next stage in the sell off of the radio microphone band will happen by 2012 and this will affect channel 69, which covers frequencies 854 to 862 MHz. This band is being cleared for various wi-fi and wireless internet applications. The revenues raised by this sell off are vast compared with the current revenues received from the licensing of radio microphones; unfortunately the airwaves have been sold to the highest bidder!

The removal of channel 69 will affect Smart Wireless Turbo X but only if you are using more than four channels together. The Turbo X will allow you to operate four radio microphones within the 863 to 865MHz license free band and at this time there has been no indication of the removal of these frequencies for radio microphone use. The recommended channel numbers are shown below (please note that only one group of four frequencies can be used in the same location at the same time).

Recommended Turbo X channel numbers (863 – 865MHz)

Group 1:	863.025 MHz / 863.425 MHz / 864.025 MHz / 864.825 MHz
Group 2:	863.075 MHz / 863.475 MHz / 864.075 MHz / 864.875 MHz
Group 3:	863.025 MHz / 863.825 MHz / 864.425 MHz / 864.825 MHz
Group 4:	863.125 MHz / 863.525 MHz / 864.125 MHz / 864.925 MHz
Group 5:	863.025 MHz / 863.875 MHz / 864.525 MHz / 864.975 MHz

If you have any questions about the digital switch over, please email us at sales@smartwireless.co.uk and we will endeavour to answer your enquiry

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