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Document History

Version	Date of Issue
Version 1 (Draft for Public Consultation)	March 21, 2021
Version 2	
Version 3	
Version 4	

Dated DD of MM 2021

For the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) Signed by

Mohammed Ali Al-Mannai President of the Communications Regulatory Authority



Part I – Instructions for Responses

Introduction

The Communications Regulatory Authority "**CRA**" is the responsible authority for establishing an effective approval regime for telecommunications equipment in the State of Qatar in accordance with Decree Law No. (34) of 2006 on the promulgation of the Telecommunications Law as amended by the Law No. (17) of 2017, the Executive By-Law for the Telecommunications Law.

Objective of the Public Consultation

The purpose of this public consultation is to provide an opportunity for interested parties/stakeholders to present their views and comments on this document "Class License for the use of RLAN devices over 5925-7125 MHz band (Wi-Fi 6)".

CRA presents in this document the its plan with respect to the above band to cope with the rapid developments in the telecom standardizations. This version of the document will be updated and published after the approval from competent authorities and reflect consideration of submissions from interested parties/stakeholders.

Consultation Procedures

All concerned and interested parties are invited to provide their views and comments on the contents in this document. General views and comments on the overall Consultation Document "CD" are also welcome. The CRA requests that, to the extent possible, submissions are supported by relevant evidence. Responses should include comments with regards to any proposed approach outlined in this CD by the CRA.

If a respondent is in disagreement with any proposed approach by the CRA, the respondent is requested to provide, in its response:

- a) The reasons for disagreement.
- b) Its alternative proposal in a clear and concise manner.
- c) All assumptions, relevant justifications and references of all data sources behind its alternative proposal.

Any submissions received in response to this CD will be carefully considered by the CRA. Nothing included in this CD is final or binding. However, the CRA is under no obligation to adopt or implement any comments or proposals submitted.

Comments should be submitted by email to (type.approval@cra.gov.qa) before the date stated on the front cover. The subject reference in the email should be stated as "Consultation on Class License for the use of RLAN devices over 5925-7125 MHz band". It is not necessary to provide a hard copy in addition to the soft copy sent by email. The deadline for all respondents to submit their comment is indicated on the cover page of this CD.



Publication of Comments

In the interests of transparency and public accountability, the CRA may publish the submissions to this consultation on its website at (<u>www.cra.gov.qa</u>). All submissions will be processed and treated as non-confidential unless confidential treatment of all or parts of a response has been requested.

In order to claim confidentiality for information in submissions that stakeholders regard as business secrets or otherwise confidential, stakeholders must provide a non-confidential version of such documents in which the information considered confidential is blackened out. This "blackened out" portion/s should be contained in square brackets. From the non-confidential version, it has to be clear where information has been deleted. To understand where redactions have been made, stakeholders must add indications such as "business secret", "confidential" or "confidential information".

A comprehensive justification must be provided for each and every part of the submission required to be treated as confidential. Furthermore, confidentiality cannot be claimed for the entire or whole sections of the document, as it is normally possible to protect confidential information with limited redactions.

While the CRA will endeavor to respect the wishes of respondents, in all instances the decision to publish responses in full, in part or not at all remains at the sole discretion of the CRA. By making submissions to the CRA in this consultation, respondents will be deemed to have waived all copyright that may apply to intellectual property contained therein.

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Part II - Introduction and Background

RLAN devices mostly use Wi-Fi spectrum to gain access to affordable Broadband in homes and offices across the world and the same is the case here in Qatar. The users continue to demand reliable broadband access across the country but so far this couldn't be achieved due to the constraints of this technology. In Qatar almost 99% of households are covered by fiber which is one of the highest percentages across the world. However, due to the limitations of the RLAN devices operating on 2.4GHz, 5.4 GHz and 5.8 GHz bands the consumers are unable to enjoy higher throughput in their homes or offices.

The issue is the same more or less across the world and there was a need to develop a more reliable standard to eradicate this bottleneck. IEEE has recently approved in February 2021 a new standard for improving the Wi-Fi access named 802.11ax also marketed as Wi-Fi 6 by Wi-Fi Alliance. It is designed to operate in several license exempt bands between 1 and 7.125 GHz. This includes the previously used Wi-Fi bands i.e. 2.4, 5.4 and 5.8 GHz while adding much wider band in 6 GHz i.e. 5.925 - 7.125 GHz (i.e. 5925-6425 MHz, 6425-6525 MHz, 6525-6875 MHz and 6875-7125 MHz sub-bands).

Even though the standard has been approved recently but the chipset developers and device manufactures have been working on developing chipsets and devices in this band since 2016/17. Hence an equipment ecosystem has already been maturing for RLAN technologies in the 6 GHz band since 2019 regarding 802.11ax. 3GPP has also been working on 5G New Radio-Unlicensed (NR-U) standard in this band which is world's first global cellular standard with both license assisted and standalone use of unlicensed spectrum. The details of the NR-U were included in their Release 16 published in July 2020. Hence a viable ecosystem of devices with this technology is expected to be emerging in coming years. With the introduction of an AFC requirement, the availability of standardized and certified AFC solutions and devices is another important element to consider for the overall 6 GHz ecosystem.

International Context:

6 GHz band is currently being used and will remain in use by a number of licensed systems such as fixed microwave backhauls systems, fixed satellite service systems, television auxiliary systems and radio astronomy. Hence studies are being conducted to test the interference free operation of RLAN devices in this band for some time now.

US:

In the U.S., the 6 GHz band is heavily used for fixed services, fixed satellite services, mobile services and radio astronomy. Considering the potential benefits of the Wi-Fi 6 Technology, FCC in April 2020 published a Report and Order (FCC-20-51) (the Report and Order) titled Unlicensed Use of the 6 GHz Band; Expanding Flexible Use in Mid-Band Spectrum Between 3.7 and 24 GHz, which included the instructions regarding license-exempt use of the 6 GHz Band i.e. 5925-7125 MHz. The FCC permitted two types of license-exempt devices with following limitations:

- Low-power: Maximum e.i.r.p. of 30 dBm (indoor only across all 1200 MHz of the band).



 Standard-power: Maximum e.i.r.p. of 36 dBm (indoor and outdoor use). Standard-power use is only permitted in two sub-bands (5925-6425 MHz and 6525-6875 MHz) and must be under the control of Automated Frequency Coordination (AFC)¹.

The Report and Order's accompanying Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) also proposed to permit very low-power (max e.i.r.p. of 14 dBm) devices to operate both indoors and outdoors across the entire band.

After this decision numerous countries across the globe also announced the opening it entirely or parts of this band for license exempt use. These include Europe, UK, Chile, South Korea and United Arab Emirates. Countries including Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Peru, Taiwan, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, and Jordan are quickly progressing towards opening 6 GHz for unlicensed operation.

Europe:

According to the studies conducted by CEPT that are included in ECC Report 302 the RLAN devices in 6 GHz band can be compatible and hence can coexist under certain conditions with FS and FSS services. The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunication (CEPT) Administrations released a report in May 2020 on the introduction of wireless access systems (WAS) including radio local area networks (WAS/RLAN) in the frequency band 5945 - 6425 MHz, with following limitations:

- Low-power: max e.i.r.p. of 23 dBm (for indoor use only).
- Very low-power: max e.i.r.p. of 14 dBm (portable use both indoor and outdoor).

The report concluded that WAS/RLAN with specified power limits could coexist with incumbent services.

UK:

Ofcom issued a decision in July 2020, allowing the use of Wi-Fi in the 6 GHz band. The decision makes the lower 6 GHz band (5925-6425 MHz) available for Wi-Fi and other license-exempt technologies with following limitations:

- Low-power: Max e.i.r.p. of 23 dBm (Indoor use).
- Very low-power: Max e.i.r.p. of 14 dBm (outdoor use).

South Korea:

In July 2020, South Korea's Ministry of Science and ICT also in July 2020 allowed the use RLAN devices across the entire 1200 MHz of the 6GHz band while the outdoor use is allowed only in 5925-6425 MHz range with following limitations:

- low-power: maximum e.i.r.p. of 24 dBm (Indoor Use).
- Very low-power: maximum e.i.r.p. of 14 dBm (Outdoor Use).

Furthermore, by 2022, outdoor use with a form of database-driven spectrum sharing, similar to the FCC's AFC system, will be allowed over the entire 1200 MHz of the band.

¹ To reduce potential harmful interference to incumbent licensed users, the FCC is requiring the use of an automated frequency control system (AFC) for standard power operations. The access point (or a central control point) will send geolocation information, FCC ID and device serial number to an AFC operator. The AFC operator will do a lookup in the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS) and calculate the ratio of interference to noise power (I/N) using one of several attenuation models based on the distance from the licensed antenna. The AFC returns a list of allowable frequencies and output powers that the AP can choose.



Middle East:

In December 2020 TRA UAE issued a decision to allow 500 MHz in 6 GHz band (specifically 5925 - 6425 MHz) for indoor use with EIRP of 250 mW. Jordan and Saudi Arabia both are likely to allow the entire 1200 MHz band i.e. 5925 - 7125 MHz with power limits as set by Ofcom and FCC. They are also looking to require AFC for Standard power or outdoor use of Wi-Fi 6 devices in certain parts of the band.

Current Status of the band in Qatar:

The table below shows the current allocation of 5925-7125 MHz band in the State of Qatar:

RR Region 1 Allocation	Qatar's Allocation	Main Use	Notes
5 925 - 6 700 MHz FIXED 5.457 FIXED - SATELLITE (Earth -to- space) 5.457A 5.457B MOBILE 5.457C 5.149 5.440 5.458	FIXED FIXED - SATELLITE (Earth - to - space) MOBILE	 Coordinated earth stations in FSS Medium/high capacity fixed links Earth Exploration Satellite systems Earth station on vessels Within the band 5925-6425 MHz Ultra-Wide Band Technology Applications 	
6 700 - 7 075 MHz FIXED FIXED - SATELLITE (Earth -to- space) (space -to - Earth) 5.441 MOBILE 5.458 5.458A 5.458B FIXED - SATELLI (Earth - to - space) (space - to - Earth MOBILE		 Earth Exploration Satellite systems (for sea surface temperature measurements) Feeder - links for MSS (within the band 6925 - 7075 MHz) Fixed Satellite applications (within the band 6725 - 7025 MHz), priority for civil networks Medium/high capacity fixed links Ultra-Wide Band Technology Applications 	FSS applications within the band 6725 – 7025 MHz in accordance with ITU - R Appendix - 30B PMSE Applications
7 075 - 7 145 MHz FIXED MOBILE 5.458 5.459	FIXED MOBILE	 Earth Exploration Satellite systems (For sea surface temperature measurements) Medium/high capacity fixed links Ultra-Wide Band Technology Applications 	PMSE Applications

As per the sharing studies done by CEPT published in ECC Report 302 and Ofcom published in their July 2020 decision, the use of lower part of the 6 GHz band i.e. 5925 - 6425 MHz is possible with minimal risk of interference to Fixed links provided that the proposed power limits are followed.



In Qatar the band has been used for satellite and fixed deployments. The satellite use is also quite minimal as most of the deployments use Ku band. Hence releasing this band for shared use is possible without much concerns. There are few fixed deployments but considering the studies done by CEPT and Ofcom the proposed power limits could easily ensure their interference free operation.

Similarly, as per the sharing studies and consultation done by FCC though order Report and Order (FCC-20-51), indoor use of the entire 1200 MHz is not likely to cause harmful interference to the incumbent services.

Recommendations:

Considering almost 100% penetrating of fiber home coverage in Qatar, it is crucial to allocate additional spectrum for shared use in order to provide affordable and high-speed broadband to the inhabitants of Qatar. Secondly unlike the European region the enough TDD mid-band spectrum has already been assigned for IMT services in Qatar and hence there is no need to allocate or reserve additional spectrum in order to benefit from 5G deployment. Then NR-U standard is going to be finalized soon which would allow the use of IMT services using shared spectrum in this band if the need arises.

Hence it is recommended to allocate the entire 5925-7125 MHz band for the indoor and outdoor use by RLAN devices (Wi-Fi 6) with following limitations:

- 1. Low-power: max e.i.r.p. of 24 dBm (for indoor use only)
- 2. Very low-power: max e.i.r.p. of 14 dBm (portable use both indoor and outdoor).

The draft Class License is being added in Part-III below.



Part III – Class License for use of RLAN devices over 5925 - 7125 MHz band "Wi-Fi 6 devices"

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Communications Regulatory Authority "**CRA**" is the responsible authority for regulating and managing all the affairs relating to use of the radio spectrum as well as establishing an effective approval regime for telecommunications equipment in accordance with the Emiri Decision No. (42) of 2014 of establishing the CRA, the Decree Law No. (34) of 2006 on the promulgation of the Telecommunications Law "**Telecommunications Law**" as amended by the Law No. (17) of 2017, the Executive By-Law No. (1) of 2009 for the Telecommunications Law "**Executive By-Law**" and other related laws.
- 1.2 As such, CRA has the powers and authorities of:
 - 1.2.1 granting, amending, renewing, suspending, and revoking Class Licenses, Radio Spectrum Licenses and Authorizations and determining the terms and procedures necessary for their issuance.
 - 1.2.2 setting the necessary procedures for the approval of the telecommunications equipment or their types for attachment to telecommunications networks in the State including approval of the equipment previously approved by organizations or other countries.

2. Relevant Legal Provisions

- 2.1 Article (4) of the Telecommunications Law states that CRA shall set and manage the plan for Radio Spectrum and for other scarce resources and ensure the optimal use of such resources and maximize revenues generated from them within the limits specified by international rules.
- 2.2 Article (10) of the Telecommunications Law states that CRA shall define the conditions under which Individual and Class licenses shall be issued.
- 2.2 Article (15) of the Telecommunications Law states that no person shall operate any radiocommunications equipment or make any use of radio frequencies, without a Radio Spectrum License or a Radio Frequency Authorization from the CRA.
- 2.3 Article (9), (10), (11), (12) and (14) of the Executive By-Law, establishes the framework to be followed by CRA when defining the terms and conditions of a Class License.
- 2.4 In accordance with Article (31) of the Executive By-Law, CRA shall establish the terms and conditions of all Licenses and shall monitor compliance by Licensees with the terms and conditions of their Licenses, and CRA may take any measures and procedures in this regard. CRA may establish the criteria through Radio Spectrum Regulations in order to determine what radio spectrum should be available for common use and this may be awarded by means of a Class License.

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3. Grant of License

- 3.1 CRA hereby grants this Class License pursuant to the above-mentioned articles of the Telecommunications Law and Executive By-Law. This Class License enables any person to possess, use, operate, install and use Wi-Fi 6 devices without that person having to apply for this Class license. Such person is hereinafter referred to as the "Licensee".
- 3.2 The Licensee is hereby authorized to import and operate Wi-Fi 6 devices within the State of Qatar and use the frequency(s) or the frequency band(s) assigned in Annexure (2) of this Class License on a non-exclusive basis provided that the Licensee operates in the authorized frequency bands and transmits the corresponding output power levels as stated in Annexure (2) of this Class and provided that type approval is obtained from CRA in accordance with section (6) of this License.
- 3.3 The Licensee shall, in addition to complying with the terms and conditions of this Class License and its annexures, comply with the provisions of the Telecommunications Law, relevant legislation and any regulations decisions, orders, rules, instructions and notices issued by CRA, hereinafter, collectively referred to as the "**Applicable Regulatory Framework (ARF)**".

4. Definitions

4.1 The words and expressions in this License shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Telecommunications Law, the Applicable Regulatory Framework and this Class License, including the definitions set out in Annexure (1).

5. Operation of the Wi-Fi 6 devices

- 5.1 The Licensee is hereby authorized to use and operate Wi-Fi 6 devices provided that the Licensee operates such devices within the authorized frequency bands or frequencies within the corresponding output power levels stipulated in Annexure (2) of this Class License.
- 5.2 The use of any Wi-Fi 6 devices above the maximum power is not allowed. However, if the Licensee wishes to use any of such devices above the permitted maximum limit, the Licensee must follow a separate license application procedure and must obtain the required spectrum license from CRA pursuant to CRA's regulations as published on its official website.
- 5.3 The Licensee must ensure that its operation must not cause interference with other authorized radiocommunications services and must tolerate any interference caused by other radio-communication services, electrical or electronic equipment.
- 5.4 The Wi-Fi 6 devices must not be constructed with any external or readily accessible control that permits the adjustment of its operation in a manner inconsistent with this Class License, in particular Annexure (2) of it.
- 5.5 CRA may amend or update Annexure (2) of this Class License in order to respond to any new developments in the market or technology advancements. The Licensee shall comply with any new amendments introduced to Annexure (2) as published on CRA's official website from time to time.

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6. Radio Spectrum

- 6.1 The Licensee is hereby authorized to use the specified radio frequencies set out in Annexure (2) subject to the terms and conditions of this Class License, its annexures and the Applicable Regulatory Framework. This Class License does not grant the Licensee any ownership interest or property rights in the radio frequencies.
- 6.2 CRA may amend or cancel spectrum allocations or assignments, in accordance with the Applicable Regulatory Framework or the National Frequency Allocation Plan of Qatar (NFAP).
- 6.3 In accordance with Article (17) of the Telecommunications Law, the Licensee shall not misuse the licensed radio spectrum nor use it for an unauthorized purpose.

7. Type Approval

- 7.1 The Wi-Fi 6 devices prior to being imported for marketing or sold in the State of Qatar must be type approved by CRA in accordance with the Type Approval Policy for Radio Equipment and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment "**RTTE**" and the Type Approval Guidelines for RTTE published on CRA's official website.
- 7.2 The Licensee must not manufacture or import for the purposes of marketing, sell or distribute Wi-Fi 6 devices that are not type approved by CRA.
- 7.3 In accordance with the preceding paragraphs (6.1) and (6.2), the Licensee must ensure that the Wi-Fi 6 devices are type approved in accordance with the list of approved telecoms equipment by CRA published on CRA's official website.
- 7.5 Companies or persons wishing to sell or import Wi-Fi 6 devices for marketing purposes or commercially deal with the such devices must register with CRA and obtain from it an Application to obtain Import Authorization for RTTE and must renew their registration annually in accordance with the procedures published on CRA's official website. After obtaining the type approval along with the Import Authorization from CRA, the Licensee may import and/or sell the devices in the State of Qatar.
- 7.6 The Wi-Fi 6 devices may be imported or used by any person without seeking type approval if is to be used for private use only and provided that it is in accordance with the standards adopted by CRA.

8. Safety Measures and Standards

The Licensee must implement any measures prescribed by the Applicable Regulatory Framework and other safety measures regarding the installation, operation and usage of all Wi-Fi 6 devices as stipulated in the above-mentioned Type Approval Policy for RTTE and the Type Approval Guidelines for RTTE.

9. License Term

This License must remain in force provided that the Licensee complies with the terms and conditions of this



Class License and the Applicable Regulatory Framework.

10. License Fees

- 10.1 There are no License fee associated with this Class License.
- 10.2 The Licensee must remain responsible for all costs, expenses or any other financial commitments arising out of this Class License and/or use of the Wi-Fi 6 devices in accordance with the Applicable Regulatory Framework.

11. Other Compliance Obligations of the Licensee

- 11.1 The Licensee must, at all times, comply with the terms and conditions stated herein and the Applicable Regulatory Framework, including any amendments thereto that may be adopted by CRA from time to time.
- 11.2 The Class Licensee shall comply with any requirements stipulated under the laws of the State of Qatar including the regulations and decisions issued by the relevant authorities in accordance with the applicable laws.
- 11.3 The Licensee must obtain any other necessary approvals as may be required by other competent authorities in the State of Qatar in accordance with the applicable laws of the State of Qatar.

12. Breach of License

- 12.1 The Licensee must be subject to penalties as provided for in the Applicable Regulatory Framework if the Licensee fails to comply with the terms and conditions set out herein. Any Failure will result in CRA taking enforcement action against the Licensee in accordance with the Applicable Regulatory Framework including initiating criminal proceedings in accordance with Articles (66), (67), (68) and (70) of the Telecommunications Law.
- 12.2 Without prejudice to any other enforcement powers of CRA or specific penalties set out in the Applicable Regulatory Framework, the Licensee can lose its right to own, import and operate Wi-Fi 6 devices if the Licensee commits repeated violations of this Class license terms and/or the Applicable Regulatory Framework.

13. Security Requirements

The Licensee must comply with the requirements of the authorized agencies of the State of Qatar relating to national security and with the directions of governmental bodies in cases of public emergencies, and it must implement the orders and instructions issued by CRA pertaining to same.

14. Access to Premises

The employees of CRA who are vested with powers of judicial seizure in accordance with Article (63) of the Telecommunications Law shall seize and prove crimes committed in violation of the rules of the Telecommunications Law.

In this respect, the Licensee must allow them to enter and inspect, in accordance with the law, the related



premises, have access to records and documents and inspect equipment and RLAN(s) or any other related things and request data or clarifications as they deem necessary.

15. Request of Information

In accordance with Chapter (13) of the Executive By-Law, CRA may require the Licensee to provide to it information necessary for exercising its powers, and the Licensee shall provide the information to CRA on request and in the form, manner and time specified by CRA.

16. Modification and Amendment

CRA, based upon its discretion, may modify, by deletion or addition, any terms and conditions this Class License. The amendments shall be published on the official website of CRA. The Licensee is under the obligation to comply with any such amendments.

17. Assignment of License

In accordance with the provisions of the Applicable Regulatory Framework, the Licensee may not assign or otherwise transfer this Class License to another person without the prior written approval of the CRA.

18. Governing Law and Language of License

This Class License is rendered in the Arabic and English languages. The Arabic language for this License is the official binding language. The License shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Qatar.



ANNEXURE (1) – Definitions

The following terms and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to each of them:

Applicable Regulatory Framework: The Telecommunications Law and its By-Law and any other rules and regulations, decisions, orders, policies, guidelines, rules, instructions or notices issued by CRA as well as this license terms and conditions and the relevant laws of the State of Qatar.

Class License: The License granted in accordance with the provisions of the Telecommunications Law for a certain class of persons and/or activities without that person having to apply for the License.

Effective Isotropic Radiated Power (e.i.r.p.): The product of the power supplied to the antenna and the antenna gain in a given direction relative to an isotropic antenna (absolute or isotropic gain).

Effective Radiated Power (e.r.p.): The product of the power supplied to the antenna and the antenna and its gain relative to a half-dipole in a given direction.

Frequency Band: A portion of the radio spectrum, which starts at a particular frequency and ends at another particular frequency.

Harmful Interference: Means interference which impairs the functioning of a radio communications or which materially degrades or obstructs or repeatedly interrupts radio communication.

Maximum Mean e.i.r.p Spectral Density: The maximum average value of the product of the transmitted power spectral density and the gain of the omnidirectional or sectoral antenna in the direction of the system.

Maximum Transmit Power: The maximum power at the transmitter output for a single traffic channel.

Mean Power: The average power supplied to the antenna transmission line by a transmitter during an interval of time sufficiently long compared with the lowest frequency encountered in the modulation taken under normal operating conditions.

National Spectrum Plan: The plan established for allocation and use of radio spectrum by the concerned entities.

Person: A natural or juridical person of any type or form.

Radio Spectrum: Radio frequencies capable of being used in radio communications in accordance with the publications of the International Telecommunications Union.

Executive By-Law: The Executive Telecommunications By-Law No. (1) of 2009.

Telecommunications Law: Telecommunications Law of the State of Qatar No. (34) of 2006, as amended by Law 17 of 2017.

Type Approval: Approval is the procedure by which RTTE is authorized by CRA to be imported into or to be used in Qatar and involves verification of the equipment's compliance with the applicable standards and requirement



ANNEXURE (2) – Technical Requirements for use of RLAN devices over 5925-7125 MHz Band Wi-Fi 6 devices

Technical Requirements for the use of RLAN devices over 5925 - 7125MHz "Wi-Fi 6 devices"

Туре	Authorized Frequency Bands	Maximum Strength/ RF Output Power	Power Spectral Density	Remarks (Emission Type, Duty Cycle, other restrictions)
Low Power	5925-7125 MHz	e.i.r.p 24 dBm	5 dBm/MHz	Indoor Use only
Very Low Power	5925-7125 MHz	e.i.r.p 14 dBm	-8 dBm/MHz	Indoor and Outdoor Use EN 303 687