

Wi-Fi 6E Policy Statement

April 26, 2022

CRA Policy Statement for Wi-Fi 6E

The Communications Regulatory Authority of Qatar (CRA) is pleased to announce that, with immediate effect, the lower part of the 6 GHz band (5925-6425 MHz) is available and allocated under the Class Licensing regime set in the Applicable Regulatory Framework (ARF) for the use of RLAN devices.

In this context, the CRA would like to emphasize that it will continue supporting the allocation of the entire 6 GHz band (5925-7125 MHz) for the use of RLAN devices, but the final policy statement will be pending the outcomes of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23), especially with respect to agenda item 1.2, which deals with the upper part of the 6 GHz band (6425 – 7125 MHz) as a candidate band for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT).

Background

CRA conducted a public consultation on the “Class License for use of RLAN devices over (5925-7125 MHz) band (Wi-Fi 6E)” in March 2021 and the responses concluded as follows:

- The allocation of lower part of the 6 GHz spectrum (5925-6425 MHz) as per the consensus among the industry was recommended to be made at the earliest for license exempt use in order to ensure high-speed and high-quality, widespread, affordable broadband to all users.
- Mobile Industry was on the view that the upper part of 6GHz band (6425 – 7125 MHz) is only one band left for allocation/identification to IMT below 10 GHz that is crucial for future development of 5G and hence the upper part of the 6 GHz spectrum (6425 – 7125 MHz) is recommended to be identified for IMT.

CRA Policy

Keeping these opinions in view, CRA is pleased to take the decision on two phases, where in phase 1, the Class License for use of RLAN devices over (5925-6425 MHz) band will be issued with immediate effect and phase 2 will be issued after the WRC-23. Bear in mind that the CRA will continue supporting the allocation of the entire 6 GHz band for license exempt use and will come to final decision after evaluating the WRC-23 results.

Why CRA will support the entire band for Wi-Fi 6E?

CRA of the opinion that opening the entire band (5925-7125 MHz) will ensure significant economic value for the State of Qatar and profoundly contribute to fulfilling the Economic Development and other objectives of Qatar's National Vision 2030.

CRA acknowledges that, since the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2003, no new mid-band spectrum has been made available for Wi-Fi despite the exponential growth in the data traffic. Furthermore, current Wi-Fi spectrum doesn't offer sufficiently wide channels for newer applications and services that are a complement for the 5G ecosystem.

CRA believes that enough spectrum is available for the 5G deployment across lower, mid and high bands to cater for the current and future needs of the technology.

CRA considers Wi-Fi6 and 5G as complimentary technologies and hence giving opportunities for future development of both of them would remain priority.