



ECC Recommendation

(04)01

With regard to the prohibition of jammers in the CEPT countries

approved 13 February 2004

latest amended 14 February 2025

INTRODUCTION

“Jammers” can be defined as any device intended or adapted for the purposes of causing interference to radiocommunications, that potentially renders inoperative an electronic communication equipment of any type.

As many applications and infrastructures depend critically on the good reception or transmission of communication, data or orders on radio links for their proper functioning, jammers can cause denial of service to these applications or infrastructure. Furthermore, they often affect a much larger zone than imagined. Jammers are a threat not to be underestimated. Their use can result in serious effects with economic, environmental, security or safety impacts. Furthermore, the availability of jammers on web sites is increasing.

Various types of jammers are found in CEPT countries such as MFCN, GNSS, video-link and RLAN jammers. Jammers are increasingly used by criminals. There is no legitimate civil use for jammers as their sole purpose is to disrupt the operation of authorised radio utilisations.

CEPT administrations and also the European Commission have expressed their concern about jammers, which may pose an uncontrollable threat to the authorised utilisation of spectrum.

Indeed, CEPT administrations, including national authorities in charge of spectrum monitoring and enforcement, are engaged in a fight against the proliferation of jammers.

In the EU, it is not possible to construct jammers that comply with the EMC Directive or the RED. Jammers fall under the EMC directive, except some specific ones containing a radiocommunication module which would be covered by the RED. In both cases such devices cannot therefore be legally placed on the market within the Community for use under these Directives.

Therefore, where such products claim compliance with the EMC Directive or the RED, Member States' market surveillance authorities are under an obligation to take them from the market under the provisions of those Directives and to notify such actions to the European Commission.

For other CEPT countries that are not EU members and that have not implemented the EMC Directive and the RED, national provisions may prevent the placing on the market and the use of this equipment.

These provisions do not consider the possession of jammers. In effect many CEPT countries do not today prohibit the possession of jammers when in the same time they all prohibit the use of jammers as well as causing harmful interference.

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Dubai, 2023) (Resolution 676) resolves to urge administrations to apply necessary measures to avoid the proliferation, circulation and operation of unauthorised transmitters that cause or have the potential to cause harmful interference to RNSS systems and networks operating in the frequency bands 1164-1215 MHz and 1559-1610 MHz.

It is noted that the only exception to the above position could be the use of jammers in the context of national authorised use, for example for the needs of public order, defence and national security, or for the public service of justice.

ECC RECOMMENDATION (04)01 OF FEBRUARY 2004 ON WITH REGARD TO THE PROHIBITION OF JAMMERS IN THE CEPT COUNTRIES, AMENDED FEBRUARY 2013 AND AMENDED 14 FEBRUARY 2025

“The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

considering

- a) that jammers are devices designed or adapted for the purposes of causing interference to radiocommunications in the areas where they are placed, thereby disrupting the legitimate use of frequency resources;
- b) that the Radio Regulations provide the legal framework for member states to use the radio-frequency spectrum with the primary objective to prevent interference;
- c) that it is in the interest of duly authorised users of frequencies, including of no-licence frequencies, that jammers are forbidden, as causing deliberate interference of radiocommunications may cause denial of service of applications including critical or safety-related applications;
- d) that jammers present regulatory, technical and operational burdens to administrations, e.g. illegal importation;
- e) that there is no legal basis to allow jammers being operated by the public;
- f) that it is not possible to construct jammers that comply with the EMC Directive or the RED and therefore such devices cannot be legally placed on the market within the European Union and that some countries outside the EU have developed similar prohibition of the placing on the market of jammers;
- g) that the World Radiocommunication Conference (Dubai, 2023) (Resolution 676) resolves to urge administrations to apply necessary measures to avoid the proliferation, circulation and operation of unauthorised transmitters that cause or have the potential to cause harmful interference to RNSS systems and networks operating in the frequency bands 1164-1215 MHz and 1559-1610 MHz;
- h) that ECC Recommendation (10)02 provides the framework for an authorisation regime of GNSS repeaters;

recommends

that CEPT administrations should:

1. prohibit placing on the market, importation, advertising, transferring ownership for free or against payment, entry into service, installation, possession and use of jammers except in the very limited context of authorised use which may be permitted by a national legislation;
2. take appropriate measures to efficiently implement and enforce the legislation on the prohibition of jammers;
3. develop awareness to dissuade the public from possessing and using jammers;
4. exchange information and best practices between CEPT administrations on enforcing the prohibition of jammers.”

Note:

Please check the Office documentation database <https://docdb.cept.org/> for the up to date position on the implementation of this and other ECC Recommendations.