



# International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 2014 General Conference – Varna-Albena, Bulgaria

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<b>Subject</b>	<b>Contest free segments on HF</b>		
<b>Society</b>	DARC	<b>Country:</b>	Germany
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## Contest free segments on HF

### Introduction

Contest preferred segments have been established on some HF bands to balance the interest of contesters and non-contesters.

### Background

At the moment the IARU Region 1 band plan indicates 7 060 kHz to 7 100 kHz and 7 130 kHz to 7 200 kHz as contest preferred segments for SSB, i.e. 110 of 140 kHz of the 2 700 Hz part of the band are devoted to contest traffic.

Normally not all contests need such a 110 kHz wide SSB contest preferred spectrum on 40 m as it is shown in the Region 1 band plan.

This has been successfully proved by the DARC WAG Contest which excludes by rule 7 080 kHz to 7 140 kHz (in total 60 kHz) from contest activities in favour of 'normal QSOs' and JOTA activities.

It would be appropriate for many contests to split 40 m by contest rule into only one contest preferred and one non-contest preferred segment of equal size for SSB.

The separation could be done at 7 130 kHz, which is the present upper limit of the non-contest preferred segment for SSB.

As an additional effect this 7 130 kHz frequency will get better known as one limit of a contest preferred segment than the two in the present band plan.

### Recommendation

Contest organisers are encouraged to consider defining in their contest rules even more spectrum not to be used for the contest (free of contest) on HF bands than that shown as 'not contest preferred' in the present band plan. SSB contest activity on the 40 m band should preferably be above 7 130 kHz.