



### **UHF CB – some commonly asked questions**

The following questions are commonly raised regarding the use of UHF CB equipment, they are not meant to answer every question, only the more common ones. If these do not provide you with an answer then please contact ARCIA or the ACMA ([www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au)), when it comes to compliance with the Regulations of the Radiocommunications Act or other requirements, ignorance is not accepted as a reason for non-compliance, the responsibility rests with the user of the equipment and under certain conditions the supplier of the equipment.

The specific conditions for use of UHF CB radios are outlined in the class licence available at –

[www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2017C00476](http://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2017C00476)

**Q. I have some UHF CB products that were purchased from a local radio/4WD business to use when I am travelling, is this alright?**

A. Yes, this is one of the many applications UHF CB was created for, just make sure that you read the instruction book and fully understand the operating requirements. Should you have any doubts or concerns we recommend you contact the store where you purchased the radio or the radio manufacturer directly.

**Q. I operate a small business and many of my clients use UHF CB in their daily operations, is it alright for me to use one as well to contact them as part of my business?**

A. Yes, provided that you either use an approved UHF CB product for that purpose, or if you have a commercial two-way radio system you must get your supplier to check that it is alright to have UHF CB frequencies programmed into your existing commercial radio units. Commercial two-way radios are approved under a separate Australian Standard from UHF CB radios. In the situation described the radio should be approved to ASNZS4295 for commercial use and ASNZS4365 for UHF CB use. When UHF CBRS channels are added to an equipment which has dual approval for LMRS and CB, the channel numbers associated with each transmit and receive frequency must follow the format required by the CBRS standard and the CBRS class licence.



**Q. I need to have a dedicated communications channel for my business, can I reserve a channel for my own use?**

**A.** No. UHF CB channels are a common use system and all users have access to all channels in all areas, subject to the operational restrictions on specific channel usage covered the class licence.

**Q. Can I use digital radios to get away from the annoying transmissions on the channel by other users?**

**A.** No. The UHF CB specification specifically states that digital transmissions are NOT permitted.

Most analogue commercial and UHF CB radios have CTCSS fitted as standard, we recommend the use of this feature to minimise any unwanted traffic.

**Q. My communications really involve the safety of my workers, is UHF CB a suitable radio system to use?**

**A.** Ultimately it is the responsibility of the business operator to ensure the safety of workers. Both ARCIA and the ACMA strongly recommend business owners consult with a suitably qualified communications specialist to determine the most appropriate communications solution for their specific requirement.

**Q. As a radio supplier/service organisation, one of my clients has brought a radio in for service which has UHF CB channels programmed in random fashion, with no instructions on how to operate the radio. Is it alright to just service the radio and return it to them?**

**A.** Technically No. The UHF CB standard, ASNZS4365 gives specific details regarding channel programming and other items, plus the Radiocommunications Act states that it is an offence to knowingly supply equipment that does not meet the relevant specifications. In this case you would be breaching the Act.

**Q. My UHF CB radios have a tone system so that I don't have to listen to other users, but they get upset because sometimes when we talk we cut them off. With common use channels isn't that just their bad luck?**

**A.** No. You have a legal requirement to monitor the channel before you transmit, this is so that you can share access equally and not interrupt other users. UHF CB is approved under a class licence, it essentially provides a community radio service, users should always respect the intent of the provision of the service.

**Q. Surely I am not responsible if other people interfere with my workers communications and it creates an accident?**

**A.** You should be aware that in the case of a serious workplace incident the relevant Workplace Safety Agencies will conduct a full investigation. You have a duty of care to your employees and others, consequently if the investigators identify the problem has been caused by poor radio communications and discover you were aware of the possible problems, then you may well be charged, found responsible and be subject to significant penalties. This applies equally to licenced LMR and UHF CB systems.

**Q. Business costs are always a problem, I can buy cheap radios on the internet that might use Amateur radio frequencies or Marine frequencies, but as long as they give me good communications and are low cost what does it matter?**

**A.** In essence you will be breaking the law by not complying with the Radiocommunications Act. The costs of getting caught operating illegally will be high, much higher than the cost of properly licenced and Australian approved LMR or UHF CB equipment. It is false economy to ignore the law and choose cheap equipment. In addition, the equipment might also not be of good quality manufacture and so fail under working conditions.

**Q. We operate a commercial two-way radio system on our site but also have outside contractors who enter the site, is it alright to have a UHF CB channel connected to one of our commercial channels so they can talk to our fleet as required?**

**A.** No, under the licence conditions of your land mobile radio (LMR) system any use by other than your direct employees must involve a 'third-party authorisation', in other words you must authorise the outside users to operate on your radio channel with a written authority and specific instructions included on the authority. With an open system such as UHF CB it would mean that ANY user with an UHF CB radio would be able to access your radio channel by talking on the interconnected channel and this is in breach of licence conditions. As the LMR licensee you would be liable for the breach.

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