

1 February 2011

Changes to the UHF CB Standard

A new radio communication equipment standard, AS/NZS 4365:2010 was released on the 27th January 2011. This new equipment standard now allows for radios operating in the 477MHz CB spectrum to operate on a 12.5KHz narrow bandwidth. This will enable doubling of the current 40 channel capacity to 80 channels.

Whilst the equipment standard has been released, the ACMA have yet to release the UHF CB class licence governing the use of such equipment and therefore prohibiting manufacturers selling radios operating on the new narrowband frequencies.

The ACMA has given no firm date as to when the new Class licence will be released and this could be published any time between April and July 2011.

Due to the above, and to ensure consumers have a future proof option, GME will soon be releasing "Upgradeable" versions of our current range of TX3100, TX3340, TX3220, TX3420, TX3440, TX4400 and TX4600.

GME radios will be Upgradeable in two different ways depending on the model. Units will be either "**User Upgradeable**" or "**Dealer Upgradeable**" and identified clearly on the outer packaging as depicted below.



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User Upgradeable (TX3100, TX3340, TX4400 and TX4600)

When the Class licence is published, GME will release a “Code Sequence” so users can activate the radio to the new 80 channel plan by pushing a sequence of front panel buttons.

Dealer Upgradeable (TX3220, TX3420 and TX3440)

Software will be released as a free download from the GME web site when the class licence is published. This software is a standalone executable file and does not install or change registry files on the operating PC. The upgrade process takes less than 8 seconds to upgrade a radio. Dealers will require the appropriate programming leads to communicate with the radio.

Information regarding the New channel plan

- Upgradeable radios will continue to operate in full 25KHz wideband until the upgrade is performed. The radio will then operate in narrowband.
- Current wideband radios operating on 40 channels will be able to operate and communicate with the new 80 channel radios on the same channels 1 to 40 as before. The ACMA may revoke the use of wideband radios some time in 2017.
- 80 channel narrowband radios can communicate with the 40 channel radios on the first 40 channels (1 to 40) but have an extra 40 channels (41 to 80) which can be used to communicate with the new 80 channel narrowband radios.
- As with the older 40 channel plan, some channels are reserved for telemetry data only. There are also three channels reserved for future use. In summary :-
 - There are 75 voice channels
 - Channels 22 and 23 are reserved for telemetry and telecommand. Voice transmission is prohibited on these channels.
 - Channel 61, 62 and 63 are reserved for future use. GME radios can receive on these channels however voice and data transmission is prohibited at this point in time.
 - There are 16 Duplex channels 1 to 8 (31 to 38) and 41 to 48 (71 to 78).
 - Channel 5 (+Duplex 35) remains the emergency channel.