

In my opinion, the suggested rules change should be (slightly) modified to reflect the following bandwidths:

No amateur station transmission using J3E shall occupy more than 3.0 kHz bandwidth

on any amateur frequency below 28.8 Mhz, and

No amateur station transmission using A3E shall occupy more than 6.0 kHz bandwidth

on any amateur frequency below 28.8 Mhz

This reflects valid comments that have been offered along these lines:

1) Bandwidths of 2.8kHz for SSB and 5.6kHz for AM really *are* a little too narrow, based on the classically accepted bandwidths. By "accepted" I mean in both the technical and empirical sense for voice communication.

2) Lots of older gear is rated right at 3.0kHz or possibly slightly higher, and would (technically) run afoul of a *strict* 2.8kHz rule.

There continues to be concern over the "issue" of bandwidth measurement. This is actually a non-issue -- these hams are simply missing the point. Again, the concern

here is *not* over the difference between 2.8, 3.0, or 3.2kHz and some observed signal a few hundred hertz over that. The concern is with SSB signals that are *obviously* over-wide...in the 5 or 6kHz range. Similarly, the concern is not with AM signals that might wander out to 6.5, or even 7kHz. It's when they balloon out to 10+ kHz total that they become excessive.

Even hams with the older gear have (or should have!) the ability to discern between SSB signals in the 2.8-3.5kc range and those in the 5-6+ kHz range.

(See

one of my earlier comments for a thumbnail tutorial). These skills are certainly

sufficient to initially identify possible scofflaws. Many of us have the capability

to record audio off the air, and/or burn .WAV files onto CD. The FCC isn't going to cite anyone until a number of such complaints are received, and a pattern of violations is established. It also isn't going to cite anyone for being a few hundred Hertz over the specified maximum, whatever it turns out to be. The flagrant violators are the stations of interest here. A 3.0/6.0kHz max will give enough leeway to those who wish to "experiment" while giving the rest of us some sort of recourse against stations trying to run the really wide stuff.

--Mark Francis

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