

RECOMMENDATION ITU-R SM.326-7

**DETERMINATION AND MEASUREMENT OF THE POWER
OF AMPLITUDE-MODULATED RADIO TRANSMITTERS**

(1951-1959-1963-1966-1974-1978-1982-1986-1990-1998)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

- a) that Article S1 of the Radio Regulations (RR) contains definitions of different expressions of power;
- b) that Article S1, No. S1.156 of the RR lays down that, whenever the power of a radio transmitter is referred to, it shall be expressed in one of the following forms according to the class of emission using the arbitrary symbols indicated:
 - peak envelope power (P_X or p_X);
 - mean power (P_Y or p_Y);
 - carrier power (P_Z or p_Z);

but that indication of one only of these powers is adequate only for certain classes of emission and for certain uses, whereas in many cases it is desirable to express the transmitter power in other forms (see Appendix S1 to the RR).

For use in formulae, the symbol p denotes power expressed in watts and P denotes power expressed in decibels relative to a reference level;

- c) that the direct measurement of each of these powers, or the deduction of one of them from a measurement of another, can only be effected under very precisely defined operating conditions;
- d) that Recommendation ITU-R SM.329 defines limits and methods of measurements of spurious emissions,

recommends

- 1 that the determination and measurement of the power of an amplitude-modulated radio transmitter should be made on the basis of the following considerations and methods:

1.1 General considerations

For amplitude-modulated transmitters, it is not always possible to measure directly the peak envelope power. For an ideal, perfectly linear transmitter this can be calculated theoretically from measurement of the mean power or of the carrier power of the emission, but the difference between the actual peak envelope power and the value thus calculated depends primarily on the degree of non-linearity of an actual transmitter.

Moreover, the coincidence of the measurements of the ratio of the mean power to the carrier power with the theoretical values is not a sure criterion of the linearity of the transmitter because of the distortion which may, as a function of the input level, increase the mean power linearly without proportionally increasing the peak envelope power.

The peak envelope power of a perfectly linear, double-sideband transmitter with full carrier (A2A, A2B, A3C or A3E), modulated at 100% would be four times greater than the carrier power. But all transmitters are to some extent non-linear, and this defect produces signal distortion and also an increase in out-of-band radiation. To keep these undesirable effects to the minimum, it is necessary to limit the peak envelope power to a useful value which, for a double-sideband transmitter with full carrier, is equivalent to limiting the modulation depth to less than 100%.

The peak envelope power is limited by the acceptable intermodulation distortion. The method recommended for defining and measuring the peak envelope power of a single-sideband or independent-sideband transmitter (R3E, B8E, etc. emissions) is described below. The same method may also be used for double-sideband transmitters (A3E emission).

1.2 Intermodulation

1.2.1 Principle for the measurement of intermodulation distortion

The imperfect linearity of amplitude-modulated radio transmitters can be expressed as a function of the level of the intermodulation products. To determine that level, it is convenient to measure separately the amplitude of each intermodulation oscillation resulting from the application, at the input of the transmitter, of two periodic modulating sinusoidal oscillations with frequencies f_1 and f_2 .

For the sinusoidal exciting oscillations at frequencies f_1 and f_2 , the frequency of the intermodulation component at the output of the transmitter is given by the formula:

$$F = p(F_0 \pm f_1) \pm q(F_0 \pm f_2) \text{ with } p, q = 1, 2, 3, \text{ etc.} \quad (1)$$

where:

F_0 : carrier frequency

f_1 and f_2 : frequencies of the exciting oscillations.

The positive sign between the two terms of the sum corresponds to much higher frequency oscillations with, as a general rule, very low amplitudes; this case is of minor interest for the purpose of this Recommendation.

1.2.2 Choice of frequencies for modulating oscillations

To measure the amplitude of the intermodulation products, it is desirable to use modulating oscillations having frequencies near the limits of the audio-frequency passband. The audio-frequency passband to be considered here is the band at the input of the transmitter which corresponds at the output, to the whole of a sideband of an emission.

Harmonics and intermodulation components, mainly of even order, may originate in the low-frequency equipment at the input of the transmitter or during the processes of modulation. To prevent these coinciding or interfering at the output of the transmitter with the intermodulation components of the third and the fifth order to be measured, the modulating frequencies f_1 and f_2 should be chosen carefully.

A harmonic relation between the modulating frequencies f_1 and f_2 should be avoided, as well as a ratio f_1/f_2 having a value in the neighbourhood of 2/3, 2/5, 2/7, 3/4, 3/5, 3/7 and 4/5. With respect to the latter condition it is assumed that for most practical purposes intermodulation components of orders higher than the fifth may be neglected.

In an audio-frequency passband between 300 and 3 000 Hz, for example, a value in the neighbourhood of 700 or 1 100 Hz may be chosen for f_1 , and in the neighbourhood of 1 700 or 2 500 Hz for f_2 , in which case the requirements stated above are satisfied.

1.2.3 Acceptable intermodulation level

Recommendation ITU-R SM.329 gives the maximum allowable limits for spurious emissions. The following describes the levels of intermodulation products that allow the transmission of a signal with suitable performance while allowing the measurement of the peak envelope power with the method described in § 1.3.

The intermodulation level considered here is expressed in terms of the ratio, generally in decibels, between the powers of the largest intermodulation component at radio frequency $p(F_0 \pm f_1) - q(F_0 \pm f_2)$ and the power of the fundamental component at radio frequency $(F_0 \pm f_1 \text{ or } F_0 \pm f_2)$ produced by either of the two f_1 and f_2 modulating oscillations applied simultaneously at the input of the transmitter, the amplitudes of which are adjusted as indicated above (§ 1.2.1, 2nd paragraph).

The intermodulation level that can be regarded as acceptable depends on the class of emission and the service for which the transmitter is intended. From this aspect, three main categories of emissions can be considered:

First category

- Single-sideband single-channel radiotelephone emissions (R3E, J3E, H3E) without a privacy device.

For these classes of emission, the major part of the energy of the modulating signal is concentrated in the part of the spectrum containing relatively low audio frequencies. If, after modulation, the high power components remain near to

the carrier in frequency, fairly high levels of intermodulation can be tolerated without serious increase in out-of-band radiation or noticeable distortion.

The acceptable intermodulation level can be taken as -25 dB or less.

If an emission of the same class is used with a privacy device which may transpose the high power components to any position in the necessary band, the preceding condition is not met, and the emission must be transferred to the second category.

Second category

- Independent-sideband radiotelephone emissions (B8E).
- Multi-channel voice-frequency telegraph emissions (R7B and B7B).
- Independent-sideband multiplex emissions (B7W).
- Single-sideband or double-sideband single-channel radiotelephone emissions (A3E, R3E, J3E, H3E) with a privacy device.

For these classes of emission, intermodulation products cause interference between channels or undesirable out-of-band radiation. Their level must be more strictly limited.

The acceptable intermodulation level may be taken as -35 dB or less.

Third category

- Double-sideband amplitude-modulated emissions.

The peak envelope power of double-sideband transmitters may also be measured by means of the method recommended in § 1.3. This is mainly of use in determining the out-of-band radiation characteristics of the transmitter.

Some administrations prefer to use the harmonic distortion method of measurement using a single sinusoidal modulating oscillation. For acceptable performance the modulation depth does not normally exceed 90%.

1.3 Methods for measuring the peak envelope power

It results from the foregoing that, because of non-linearity in the transmitters, the measurement of the peak envelope power must take into consideration the accepted intermodulation level for the transmitter in question, and that different measuring methods may give results which do not agree.

Hence it is desirable to adopt a single measuring method which is as simple and certain as possible.

The following method is recommended:

1.3.1 Single- or independent-sideband amplitude-modulated transmitters with reduced or suppressed carrier

1.3.1.1 The transmitter output is connected to the antenna feeder line or to a test load with the proper terminal impedance.

Provisions should be made to measure the mean power. Any instrument suitable for measurement of mean power of a sinusoidal radio-frequency oscillation of constant amplitude may be used for this purpose.

1.3.1.2 A selective measuring device, e.g. a selective radiofrequency voltmeter or a spectrum analyzer, and an instrument responding to the peak amplitude of the modulated signal, e.g. an oscilloscope, are coupled to the terminal load.

The selective measuring device is used to measure the relative amplitudes of the spectral components of the radio-frequency signal. The peak value of the envelope of this signal is determined by the peak responding instrument.

1.3.1.3 The carrier control switch or attenuator of the transmitter is set to the position corresponding to the required carrier level.

This carrier level is preferably:

- for suppressed carrier emissions: -40 dB or less;
- for reduced carrier emissions: between -16 dB to -26 dB;
- for full carrier emissions: -6 dB.

relative to the level of a sinusoidal reference oscillation. The level of this oscillation (0 dB) is called the reference level.

1.3.1.4 The deflection of the peak responding instrument, corresponding to the reference level is initially determined by setting the carrier control switch or attenuator to 0 dB (see Note 1).

NOTE 1 – The measurement procedure is applicable to equipment provided with a carrier control switch. If the equipment is not so fitted, or if the fitted control does not allow a 0 dB setting, the procedure is still applicable if the attenuation of the carrier with respect to the reference level is known and appropriate allowances are made.

1.3.1.5 Once the deflection corresponding to the reference level is known and the carrier control switch has been set to the position indicated in § 1.3.1.3 the transmitter is modulated by two sinusoidal oscillations, the frequencies of which are chosen as indicated in § 1.2.2.

1.3.1.6 The input levels of the two modulating oscillations are adjusted so that, at the output:

- the radio-frequency oscillations corresponding to the modulation signal have fundamental components which are of equal amplitude, and simultaneously,
- the deflection of the peak responding instrument resulting from the composite radio-frequency signal is equal to the deflection corresponding to the reference oscillation, as obtained in § 1.3.1.4.

1.3.1.7 Next, the level of the complete signal, including the carrier, is adjusted so that, at the output, the largest intermodulation component as measured with the selective measuring device reaches the acceptable intermodulation level, as defined in § 1.2.3.

1.3.1.8 The deflection of the peak responding instrument, resulting from the signal mentioned in § 1.3.1.7, is recorded.

1.3.1.9 This last instrument is calibrated in terms of peak envelope power by using a single sinusoidal oscillation.

This may be accomplished either:

- by replacing the two modulating oscillations by a single sinusoidal oscillation and by suppressing the carrier or, if this is not possible,
- by suppressing the two modulating oscillations and by increasing the carrier. The modulation input level or the carrier level, whichever is applicable, is adjusted to obtain an arbitrary deflection of the peak responding instrument, which, for purposes of optimum overall measurement accuracy, preferably should be equal to the deflection obtained in § 1.3.1.8.

The deflection is recorded and the corresponding mean power is measured.

1.3.1.10 The peak envelope power is calculated from the formula:

$$\text{Peak envelope power} = \text{mean power} \times \left[\frac{\text{Deflection obtained in § 1.3.1.8 with two oscillations}}{\text{Deflection obtained in § 1.3.1.9 with one oscillation}} \right]^2 \quad (2)$$

1.3.2 Single-sideband or double-sideband amplitude-modulated transmitters with full carrier

If the transmitter is capable of being operated also with suppressed or reduced carrier and is provided with a carrier control switch, it is preferable to follow the same procedure as outlined in § 1.3.1.

If the transmitter is suitable only for operation with full carrier, the measurement is performed as follows:

1.3.2.1 same as in § 1.3.1,

1.3.2.2 same as in § 1.3.1.

1.3.2.3 The transmitter is modulated by two sinusoidal oscillations, the frequencies of which are chosen as indicated in § 1.2.2.