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Radio Report No. 234

PREQUENCY VARIATION OF POST OFFICE
SHORT WAVE TRANSMITTERS
APRIL-JUNE 1932.



OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF,
(RADIO SECTION),
GENERAL POST OFFICE,
LONDON, E.C.1.

RADIO REPORT NO. 234.

FREQUENCY VARIATION OF POST OFFICE. SHORT WAVE TRANSMITTERS APRIL - JUNE 1932.

Report made by:- F.E. Nancarrow and E.J.C. Dixon.

at:- Dollis Hill.

date:- August, 1932.

A.J. Gill. for Engineer-in-Chief. Date: 8, 12, 32.

Radio Section,
Engineer-in-Chief's Office,
G.P.O.,
LONDON, E.C.1.

Rota 3724/32.

FREQUENCY VARIATION OF POST OFFICE. SHORT WAVE TRANSMITTERS. APRIL - JUNE 1932.

Summary.

The frequency records for the period January to March 1932 are given in Radio Report No.230. The present report gives the records for the period April to June, 1932 in a similar manner. The frequency measurements recorded are accurate to \pm 15 parts in a million.

Post Office Short Wave Transmitters.

A. Oxford Radio Station - Telegraphy.

During the period under review the channels GIA and GIC were transferred from the old No.1 transmitter to the reconstructed No.2 transmitter. No.3 transmitter dealt with Channel GIH and GIK and No.4 (experimental) transmitter took GIF pending the reconstruction of the old No.1 transmitter.

B. Rugby Radio Station - Telephony.

The transmitters operated normally on their assigned channels, an exception being the occasional use of No.1 transmitter on GDS channel. In the case of Nos.2 and 6 transmitters Standard Telephone Type crystals were substituted for Post Office crystals following suspected faults but the faults were not traced to the crystals and the Post Office crystals were replaced in circuit. In No.5 transmitter GAA spare crystal was in use for most of the period while the crystals for the GAQ channel have yet to be adjusted accurately to allocation.

C. Portishead Radio Station - Ship Telegraphy.

One crystal controlled channel was in use during the period under review. The transmitter was built by the Post Office and uses "X" cut crystals in air gap holders temperature controlled by a selenium thermostat.

Frequency Measurements.

The routine measurements made by the Post Office interception station at Colney Heath provide the data for the curves attached to this report. The curves are all plotted to the same scale and lines indicating half the C.C.I.R. recommended tolerance of \pm .02 per cent are drawn. Changes of crystal in use are indicated on the curves.

Analysis/

Table 1 attached gives particulars of the transmitters and the worst deviations from allocated frequencies. Table 2 gives the number of times the transmitter exceeded the quoted tolerances of ± 100 in a million and ± 200 in a million (i.e. .01 and .02 per cent respectively). No curves are drawn on this basis as a strict comparison is not possible unless all channels carry an equal number of measurements at equal intervals of time. The reasons for major deviations from allocated frequencies are given in the "Remarks" column.

Conclusions.

Apart from the experimental transmitter the recommended C.C.I.R. tolerance is not exceeded by Post Office Short Wave transmitters except where channels are interchanged between transmitters or where crystals incorrectly adjusted to allocated frequency are used, e.g. some spares and some new channels. Arrangements are in hand to adjust all crystals to allocated frequency and bring all thermostat ovens as far as possible to a common temperature so as to avoid variations of frequency when channels are interchanged between transmitters. The normal performance of all types of frequency control at present in use is within the narrower tolerance of ± 100 parts in a million.

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TABLE 1.
FREQUENCY VARIATION OF S/W TRANSMITTERS APR. - JUN. 1932.

A. OXFORD RADIO STATION.

| Trans- mitter No.1 No.2 No.3 No.4 | | Allocated Frequency kc/sec. 19640 8640 19640 8640 10650 5325 9220 | Cryste Holde Therm Y.Type Y. " X.Type X " X " X " | rar | ad at | No. of Mea- sure- ments 9 4 20 38 68 3 | from Al | viation location -kg/sec. -2.0 3.3 -1.0 0.1 0.0 0.0 3.8 | Total Variation. parts in 82 70 102 116 56 56 715 | Max. deviation from Allocation a million 183 394 153 105 56 56 412 | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|--|---|-----|-------|---|---------|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | | TOTAL | PADTO | | | | | |
| | | | B. RUGBY RADIO STATION. | | | | | | | | |
| No.1 | GAU | 18620 | Y. S. | | BM | 9 | 2.2 | 1.0 | 172 | 107 | |
| | GBU | 12290 | Y. S. | | BM | 66 | 0.3 | 1.7 | 153 | 138 | |
| | GCU | 9950 | Y. S. | | BM | 16 | 1.9 | 0.8 | 272 | 191 | |
| | GDS | 6905 | Y. S. | | BM | 17 | -2.0 | 9.0 | 1010 | 1300 | |
| No.2 | GAS | 18310 | X. Type | 2A. | FR | 21 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 66 | 66 | |
| | GBS | 12150(1) | X " | 2A | FR | 51 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 107 | .91 | |
| | GBS | 12150(2) | Y S. | | FR | 4 | -2.5 | 3.2 | 58 | 263 | |
| | GCS | 9020 | X Type | ZA. | FR | 53 | 1.9 | 0.0 | 210 | 210 | |
| | GDS | 6905 | X H | 2A | FR | 50 | 0,2 | 1.3 | 218 | 188 | |
| No.3 | GBW | 14440 | Y. S. | | BM | 58 | 1.7 | 0.8 | 173 | 118 | |
| | GCW | 9790 | Y. S. | | BM | 17 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 215 | 113 | |
| No.4 | GBP | 10770 | X. Type | 2A | BM | 72 | 0,1 | 0,5 | 56 | 46 | |
| No.5 | GAA | 20380(1) | Y. S. | | BM | 10 | 1.7 | 0,5 | 108 | 84 | |
| | GAA | 20380(2) | Y. S. | | BM | 50 | -0.1 | 4.2 | 201 | 206 | |
| | GAQ. | 18970 | Y. S. | | BM | 69 | -2.3 | 6.2 | 205 | 327 | |
| No.6 | GBB | 13585(1) | X. Type | | | 1 | 0.8 | 1.7 | 65 | 125 | |
| | G BB | 13585(2) | Y. S. | | BM | 18 | -1.3 | 2.6 | 96 | 191 | |
| | | | C. | POR | TIS | | | | | | |
| No.2 | GKT | 8210 | X. Type | 2A. | SR | 29 | 2.6 | -0.5 | 255 | 317 | |

NOTE: Holders, S = Standard Telephone Type.

2A = Post Office 'air gap' Type.

Thermostata. BM = Bimetallic Helix.

SR = Selenium Resistance.

FR = Foster Instrument Co.'s type.

TABLE 2.

DEVIATIONS FROM FREQUENCY ALLOCATION OF S/W TRANSMITTERS APR. JUN. 1932.

| | | | A. OXFORD RAD | IO STATION. | | |
|----------------|------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| Trans- | Call | Allocated | Number | Times Exceeding | Times Exceeding | Remarks |
| mitter | Sign | Frequency kc/sec. | Measurements | ± 100/105 | ± 200/108 | went up |
| Nos.1 | GIA | 19640 | 29 | 10 | - } | Major devia- tions due |
| 11 | GIG | 8640 | 42 | 5 | 4 } | to old No.1 Transmitter |
| No.3. | GIH | 10650 | 68 | - | - | |
| 19 | GIK | 5325 | 3 | - | - | |
| No.4. | GIF | 9220 | 60 | 13 | 11 | Experimental thermostat. |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | B. RUGBY RADI | O STATION. | | |
| | | | | 1 | | |
| No.1 | GAU | 18620 | 9 | 1 | - } | Deviations |
| " | GBU | 12290 | 66 | 1 | - (| due to in- termittent |
| 11 | GCU | 9950 | 16 | 4 | - } | fault on thermostat |
| No.2 | GAS | 18310 | 21 | - | - | |
| " | GBS | 12150 | 55 | 4 | 4 } | Due to use of spare crystal. |
| B | GCS | 9020 | 53 . | 3 | 1 | |
| Nos.1 and 2 | GDS | 6905 | 37 | 23 | 17 } | Major devia- tions ascribed to No.1 Trans- mitter. |
| No.3 | GBW | 14440 | 58 | 3 | - | |
| 11 | GCM | 9790 | 17 | 2 | - | |
| No.4 | GBP | 10770 | 72 | - | - | |
| No.5 | GAA | 20380 | 60 | 36 | - } | Due to use of spare orystal |
| 11 | GAQ | 18970 | 69 | 69 | 66 | Mean frequency 5 kg |
| No.6 | GBB | 13585 | 40 | 18 | - } | Due to use of spare orystal. |
| | | c. | PORTISHEAD RA | ADIO STATION | Y. | |
| No.2 | GKT | 8210 | 29 | 4 | 3 } | Fault on thermostat |

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