

## WARC BANDS

Mike Brown - July 26, 2025

We are familiar with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The ITU convened several technical meetings in Geneva, Switzerland beginning in 1979 followed by 1984, and 1992 in the form of the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC).

In the inaugural meeting in 1979, participants in these conferences agreed informally to allocate three very narrow portions of the shortwave bands for use by certified and licensed amateur radio operators. These are:

30 Meters (10.10 - 10.15 MHz)

17 Meters (18.068 - 18.168 MHz)

12 Meters (24.89 - 24.99)

Now these bands are commonly referred to as "WARC Bands".

In conjunction with this designation, an informal agreement has existed since that time that these parts of the radio spectrum would not be used at all for contesting. During popular contests, these bands provide other operators with space for their use. Likewise the contestants are then free to participate in their events without having to dodge around traffic not related to the contest. Operators not participating are encouraged to use the WARC bands during these very large national and international events. Clearly it is during these big events with the airwaves crowded that this consideration and practice is most important.