

FACT SHEET NO. 8

Family Radio Service (FRS) use in Barbados

What is Family Radio Service (FRS)?

FRS is the abbreviation for Family Radio Service. Family Radio Service is a personal UHF two-way Citizen Band (CB), short distance communications service, which has a range of approximately 1-2 miles. It is also known as a Type 'A' Citizen Band (CB).

FRS intended use is for hand-held, short-range communication. It operates in Narrow Band Frequency Modulation (NBFM) with a radiated power of 0.5 watts. NBFM is generally used for point-to-point communications.

What is Continuous Tone Controlled Squelch System (CTCSS)?

Majority of FRS radios are equipped with Continuous Tone Controlled Squelch System (CTSS), which allows the squelch on the FRS radio to remain closed to unwanted radio signals until the correct digital code is received. CTCSS minimizes interference and it is not secure.

Spectrum Allocation

FRS utilizes 14 frequencies for broadcasting, operating around 70 cm wavelength from 462.5625 MHz – 467.7125 MHz, with a maximum bandwidth of 12.5 kHz, with 25 kHz spacing.

Licence Fees

A licence fee of \$20.00 is required to operate an FRS in Barbados, according to the Telecommunications (Licence Fees) Regulations, S.I. 2003 No.78. There is no annual fee.

For further information please refer to the Family Radio Service in Barbados Policy.

Issued by
Minister responsible for Telecommunications