

What is PMR446?

PMR446 - The Facts

PMR446 is a licence-exempt, short-range radio service that has revolutionised the two-way radio market in the UK. The service, whose products you will probably see in high street outlets such as Dixons and Currys is unique in many respects. Its main claim to fame is that domestic and business users can all use the service enabling everyone to keep effectively and efficiently in contact with friends, families and colleagues.

The PMR446 service builds upon the foundations of the once popular and successful Short-Range Business Radio (SRBR) service, which was restricted to business users. PMR446 replaced SRBR in 2003.

PMR446 radios offer effective and low cost general purpose communications over a range of up to 3kms*. The major attraction of PMR446 is that there is no need for a licence and no previous knowledge or experience of radio equipment is necessary. Simplicity is also a keyword as most PMR446 radios have only a few buttons and are therefore very easy to use. Most PMR446 transceivers are small enough to fit comfortably into a trouser pocket or a handbag.

The power source of PMR446 equipment can vary. Commercial market models are usually supplied with a Li-ion rechargeable pack and charger. However, at the cheaper end of the market 'AA' batteries are usually required to operate the product. Accessories are also readily available, with most manufacturers offering a wide range. This allows operators to tailor the equipment to meet specific, individual needs.

Whether you plan to use PMR446 to improve communications within your business or to just keep in touch with your family and friends, the benefits are enormous, they include:

- No call charges.
- No licence fee.
- No age restriction
- Almost no running costs (you only have to recharge the batteries).
- Easy and immediate use. PMR446 can be used by anyone, anytime, anywhere. There is no need to pass a test and there is no airtime contract. The service may also be used in many other EU countries, without restriction**.

Before you purchase a PMR446 radio you should run through this quick checklist:

- Do I need to communicate with colleagues, or friends when they are out of earshot?
- Do I want an easy-to-use system that is effective and reliable?
- Would I prefer a system that costs little and is great value for money?
- Is there a wide range of accessories available to suit my developing needs?

If you have answered yes to the above questions, then PMR446 is the right service for you.

Some of PMR446's many applications:

- Access Control • Biking • Break & Lunch Patrols
- Building Sites • Camping • Caravan Sites
- Crisis Control • Crossing Patrols • Sports Events
- Event Management • Factories • Farming
- Fishing • Golf • Hotels & Caterers • Key Staff
- Business Use • Leisure Use • Maintenance Staff
- Neighbourhood Watch • Nursing Homes
- Offices • On-site Security • Poolside safety
- Prefect Communication • Pubs and Clubs
- Pupil Surveillance • Rambling • Schools • Shops
- Shopping Centres • Skiing • Sports Centres
- Supermarkets • Surveyors • Theatres • Training, plus countless other safety, security and general communications uses.

*Range depends on the terrain and environment and can be shorter in some conditions.

**Users should check that the relevant countries have implemented all PMR446 legislation. Failure to do this may break the law in that country.

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