

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)**

2010/Tele/11(3)/1

Date: 07.04.2022

**General Manager,
All Indian Railways**

Subject: Availability of VHF sets with Crews to Train Running/Operations

Reference: **1. Railway Board letter vide 2010/Tele/11(3)/1 dated 11.12.2019**
2. Railway Board letter vide 2010/Tele/11(3)/1 dated 07.03.2022
3. Railway Board letter vide 2010/Tele/11(3)/1 dated 22.03.2022

Vide RB letter under reference (1), the issue of poor performance of some makes of VHF was addressed and RDSO was advised to complete vendor development process for VHF sets. Zonal Railways were advised to purchase VHF sets based on past performance of the sets, till vendor development process approval is completed RDSO. It was also advised that zonal Railways, with the approval of competent authority, may form a panel of at least three vendors with minimum three reputed make VHF sets, complying with RDSO specifications, as per the past performance in sectors like Railways & Defense by following the transparent process, till vendor development/cross approval process is completed by RDSO.

Again, vide RB letter under reference (2), RDSO has been advised to expeditiously complete the vendor development/cross approval process and also coordinate with the organizations/PSUs for the development of VHF sets.

However, in a recent derailment case, it is noticed that the crew of the derailed train did not have VHF sets.

VHF communication is the most vital communication available with train running staff (Loco Pilot, guards) for communicating among themselves and with station master for train operations. Non-availability of VHF sets is a serious safety concern.

If the Railways are facing shortage of VHF sets, then to ensure availability of VHF sets with train operation staff, Zonal Railways should adopt following:

- 1. Pooling:** If procurement of sets is taking time & the divisions/zone do not have adequate nos. of VHF sets for all train running staff, then pooling of VHF sets may be done and VHF sets may be provided to the Train running staff while signing ON for duty and may be collected while signing OFF. Good Quality working VHF

sets along with adequate battery charging facility be kept in lobbies for train running staff.

2. **Repair:** Railways must focus on timely repair of VHF sets and drive to be launched by Railways to ensure that ARC/AMC is in place for repair & maintenance of VHF sets & at no point of time, more than 5% of VHF sets are defective.
3. **Purchase:** Purchase of new VHF sets be expedited by Zonal Railways as per Railway Board letter dated 11.12.2019, referred above.

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Copy to: Director General, RDSO, Lucknow for expediting action on Railway Board's letters under reference 1,2,3 above.