Radio Equipment preventing Radio Communications

Information of the Austrian Telecommunications Authority

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General Information about Jammers

As a part of the national frequency utilization, radio frequencies are assigned to different communications services for operations such as mobile services, wireless networks or satellite navigation services, i.e. GPS.

A jammer functions on the principle of interfering radio frequencies in order to prevent certain wireless communications services.

Mobile phones are also used by emergency services to provide short reaction times. The disruption of mobile services may prevent assistance being requested in emergency situations via cell phone. The use of a jammer to disrupt mobile services is therefore unjustified; rather mobile communications should follow certain social etiquette to allow for respectful social interaction.

The sale, possession and use of electrical equipment which prevents radio communication are prohibited.

Since the safeguarding objectives of the Federal Law for Radio Equipment and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment (FTEG), [Federal Law Circular II No. 134/2001 as amended], or the Electromagnetic Compatibility Regulation 2006 [Federal Law Circular II No. 529/2006 as amended] cannot be met by such devices, it is forbidden in Austria to distribute and/or sell Jammers, and the use of such devices is, therefore, also prohibited. Violation shall result in a fine of up to € 36,336 (Thirty six thousand three hundred and thirty six), and the seizure of the devices by the Telecommunications Authority.

Legal Basis

Electrical equipment with the capacity to prevent radio communication by electromagnetic waves will be considered as radio equipment in accordance with §2(3) FTEG and according to §3(6) of the Telecommunications Act 2003 (TKG) [Federal Law Circular II No. 70/2003 as amended]. Such equipment may be operated only with the express permission of the Telecommunications Authority.

According to § 74 TKG, a licence to establish and operate such equipment shall only be granted to Law Enforcement Authorities.