

Letter Symbols to Designate Microwave Bands (Correspondence)

L. Lewin. "Letter Symbols to Designate Microwave Bands (Correspondence)." 1964 Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques 12.5 (Sep. 1964 [T-MTT]): 551-551.

At a recent meeting of RCRD 16(Waveguides), members discussed the question of the use of letters to designate microwave wavebands. It was noted that the use of these letters is historical, arising in the first instance from security considerations in wartime radar, and that the letters follow no logical sequence. Moreover, there is no unanimity, either in Great Britain or in the United States, as to the meaning of these letters, and there is much proliferation in some quarters, with consequent confusion. Accordingly, there appeared to be some case for dropping the existing system and either having a logical and systematic designation or, possibly, none at all. However, the members felt, despite this unpromising outlook, that the letters really did serve a useful purpose, and that some terms, such as X-band, are too ingrained to be dropped. It was suggested that these terms might be likened to the use of colors to designate parts of the optical spectrum. Although the edges of the band designated "yellow," for example, may not be too clearly defined, nevertheless it is a useful term to have; although in accurate scientific work one would naturally use the appropriate unit, Angstroms, wavenumber, or frequency. Overlap in color designation occurs, of course, and one can use phrases like yellow-green to describe them. Similarly, it was felt that with a suitable, small number of letter terms, phrases like X-band would take on a useful meaning, to be supplemented by accurate wavelength or frequency descriptions when appropriate. Terms like X-J might be used descriptively to denote overlap regions.

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