



DAB service following testing in the United Kingdom

(April 2018)

As part of the Digital Radio Tick Mark, Digital Radio UK recommends that all vehicle manufacturers and manufacturers selling aftermarket products (i.e. products intended to convert a car from analogue radio to DAB digital radio) test their product's ability to implement service following (hard linking and soft linking) in the field in the UK.

We recommend that manufacturers use the suggested test routes below, tuned to the Heart network on the local ensembles in order to sample a range of switching scenarios. Note that tuning to services on the National ensembles will not provide effective testing.

Suggested test route 1: Long route

London to Cardiff – M4

Cardiff to Manchester and Leeds M5/M6/M62

Manchester / Leeds to London – M1

Suggested test route 2: Short route

London to Cardiff – M4

Cardiff to Birmingham - M5/M42

Birmingham to London – M1

Please note that the suggested routes can only be used to verify A3, A5, A6 Service Following cases as defined in ETSI TS 103 176 V2.1.1 (2017-08) [here](#) and shown below.

- A.1 DAB to DAB in Multi-Frequency Networks
- A.2 Same service on different ensembles
- A.3 Linking regional variations of a service on different ensembles
- A.4 Linking technology variations of a service on different ensembles
- A.5 Soft linking of services
- A.6 Linkage of DAB and FM-RDS services
- A.7 Linking regional variations using explicit and implicit linking
- A.8 Preventing implicit linkage to FM-RDS

In terms of switching behaviour on Heart, the relevant hard links are active almost all of the time between 1000-1600 and 1900-0600 weekdays, except during local news, links and commercials. During local programming 0600-1000 and 1600-1900 on weekdays there are very few hard links active. Soft links are active at all times.

Upon request Digital Radio UK is able to grant access to Global's service following website. This shows real-time switching in the field for Global services. This should be helpful when you are testing on the road.

If you have any questions about service following in the UK, please email tickmark@digitalradiouk.com.