

How does Service Following Operate?

Service information in DAB is carried in the Fast Information Channel (FIC) as a series of Fast Information Groups (FIGs) carried in Fast Information Blocks (FIBs). Different FIGs are used for different service information and several different FIGS may be needed to implement a particular service information feature such as service linking or announcements DAB provides signalling that enables broadcasters to inform receivers about the broadcast networks and service configurations that allow service following to take place and also provides dynamic information to control which of that information is used at any given time to take account of changes during the day.

Three types of information can be involved with service following:

- service linking information
- other Ensembles Services information
- Frequency information

Service following generally provides information to allow precisely the same service to be followed, and when linking information is needed this is called 'hard linking'. Broadcasters are also able to indicate suitable alternative content - related services - and this is called 'soft linking'.