

DIRECTV® HDTV Fact vs. Fiction

The HDTV universe has been abuzz recently with some changes underway that may affect in-motion, high-definition programming. KVH is happy to help sort out the confusion for vessel and vehicle owners who want their HD and their in-motion access, too!

So... what's "Ka-band"? and why is it taking away my HD?

DIRECTV is in the process of expanding its high-definition programming using its new Ka-band satellites, which broadcast signals at 18-30 Ghz and use the new MPEG-4 compression system. In the future, DIRECTV will broadcast all HDTV programming via its Ka-band satellites.

Because of the different frequencies used by Ka-band satellites, compatible satellite TV antennas require different equipment to work with DIRECTV's HD broadcasts, such as new receivers and the new "5 LNB dish" that DIRECTV is providing its more than 16 million home customers.

The good news is that DIRECTV is the only satellite television provider moving high-definition broadcasts – or any broadcasts – away from their current Ku-band satellites. So, if you just gotta have your MTV and all of the rest of your programming... in HD... on the move... you can, so long as you get it from DISH Network® or ExpressVu when you're on the road or cruising to your destination.

Q&A:

What, exactly, is changing?

DIRECTV is expanding its high-definition programming and moving it to newer, higher-capacity satellites that broadcast in a different frequency – Ka-band – and removing it from its current HDTV satellites that use the Ku-band satellites.

I enjoy HDTV using DISH Network or Bell ExpressVu. Is anything changing for me?

Not at all! If you subscribe to HDTV with DISH Network or Bell ExpressVu, you can continue to enjoy HDTV – whether you're stationary or in motion – just as you do now.

What is the timeline for changes to DIRECTV's high-definition offerings?

DIRECTV has to convert more than 16 million home subscribers as part of this transition, a process that will take a while. Based on KVH's conversations with DIRECTV, HDTV programming should be available on the existing Ku-band satellites well into 2008 and possibly into 2009.

I currently get DIRECTV standard-definition programming. Will I still be able to watch TV on the go after the transition?

Absolutely! DIRECTV is only making changes to its high-definition programming, so your standard-definition programming will continue to be available on your existing satellite TV antenna.

I bought an in-motion satellite TV system so I could enjoy high-definition programming when the vehicle is in motion, not just when it's parked. Is that still possible?

Yes! KVH's current in-motion TracVision systems are all compatible with DISH Network and ExpressVu HDTV*. With a subscription to one of the many HDTV packages available with these two services, you can continue to enjoy all the premium, high-definition programming you like, even when the vehicle or vessel is moving.

* May require software upgrade. Hardware upgrade may also be required for older systems. See a KVH dealer for details.