

# OfW 357 Non Operational Licensing Guidance Notes

## Introduction

The purpose of these guidance notes is to inform those wishing to test, develop, research or demonstrate radio equipment of the requirements and regulations that have to be complied with in the United Kingdom under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006.

Under the terms of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006, it is an offence to install or use radio apparatus, except under and in accordance with a licence issued by Ofcom (The exception to this is only where the apparatus has specifically been made exempt from the licensing requirement by Regulation).

## What is Non Operational Licensing?

Non Operational Licensing covers

- The testing and development of wireless telegraphy (radio) equipment
- Scientific research and experimentation
- Trials and demonstrations of radio apparatus

Use of a radio system by a person other than the licensee is permitted under this licence, provided that person is under the control of, and authorised by, the licensee.

## Is a licence required for all testing and development work?

Testing and development work is exempt from licensing if carried out under suppressed radiation conditions. The definition of suppressed radiation conditions is that the radiated field strength, measured at a specified distance from the boundary of the premises, must not exceed the limits shown within certain frequency bands. Further information can be found below

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1989/Uksi\\_19891842\\_en\\_1.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1989/Uksi_19891842_en_1.htm)

In addition the apparatus must meet the spurious emission limits also set out in this document. Equipment must be designed, constructed, maintained and used so that there is no interference caused to other users of wireless telegraphy.

## What is a Non Operational Development Licence (NODL)?

A Non Operational Development Licence allows an applicant to use spectrum on a non-commercial, non-permanent basis to build innovative spectrum apparatus or equipment or undertake academic or scientific research. Under the Non Operational Development Licence, use of radio equipment will normally be authorised for periods of up to twelve months though licensees may re-apply for further authorisation beyond the initial period. A standard fee of £50.00 for each station or apparatus per location is payable when the licence is issued.

## **What is a Non Operational Temporary Licence (NOTL)?**

A Non Operational Temporary Licence allows an applicant to use spectrum on a non-commercial, non permanent basis to trial a new system or radio concept or demonstrate a new system or radio concept.

The licence has various uses - it may, for example, authorise use of new equipment at a trade fair or exhibition, or be used for the purpose of demonstrations by manufacturers or suppliers to third parties prior to full commercial operation.

(Radio equipment must be compliant with the R&TTE Directive if it is to be placed on the UK market. Please see below for further information)

[http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radiocomms/ifi/tech/RTEE/rtte\\_faq/#more\\_info](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radiocomms/ifi/tech/RTEE/rtte_faq/#more_info)

Under the Non Operational Temporary Use Licence, use of radio equipment will normally be authorised for periods of up to six months. A standard fee (£50.00 for each station or apparatus per location each month) is payable when the licence is issued.

## **How long does it take to obtain a licence?**

The length of time from the date of application to the issue of a licence is closely linked to the nature and complexity of the proposals and the frequencies the applicant wishes to use. The co-ordination of applications can usually be processed within six weeks from date of receipt. If, however, co-ordination of the use of certain frequencies with other organisations is necessary, then the time taken may be longer.

## **What if I wish to discuss the details or progress of my application?**

- 020 7981 3157 or [gordon.drake@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:gordon.drake@ofcom.org.uk) in the first instance for enquiries
- specific engineering advice can also be obtained via this contact

## **What are the conditions of the licence?**

The equipment must be used at all times in accordance with the terms of the licence and the terms of the General Licence Conditions booklet. A copy of this can be accessed below

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radiocomms/ifi/licensing/booklet.pdf>

Failure to comply with the terms may result in revocation of the licence and may lead to prosecution of the offender. Where it is not possible to obtain frequency clearance from other users, Ofcom may not be able to issue a licence, in which case we would contact you explaining the reasons.

Any proposed change in the details of the system (equipment details, location, etc) must be notified in advance. A change from the details shown in the licence made without prior approval from Ofcom may mean that operation of the equipment would be illegal.

The equipment must not cause interference to any other wireless telegraphy equipment. No protection will be given from interference received from other authorised services.