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# Amateur Radio Licence

Guidance for licensees

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**GUIDANCE:**

Publication Date: 15 October 2018

# About this document

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## About this guidance

Ofcom has published this Guidance to help Amateur Radio licensees understand and comply with the terms and conditions of the UK Amateur Radio Licence. This should therefore be read in conjunction with the Licence.

Following the Guidance should help licensees reduce the risk of breaching the terms and conditions of the Licence. The Guidance is not, however, intended to be relied upon as legal advice, nor does Ofcom give advice to licensees on individual cases. Licensees should seek their own independent legal advice as required in order to ensure compliance.

The Guidance is not legally enforceable. It does not impose additional licence conditions or modify the effect of the existing terms and conditions of the Licence. Further, the Guidance is not intended to be a new version of the BR68 Licence Conditions booklet, which was superseded by the introduction of the current licensing regime.

## Changes and updates to this Guidance

This version of the Guidance was published in October 2018.

The Guidance may be amended or updated from time to time, for example to reflect changes in common practice or procedures, advances in technology or changes to international agreements. Each version will include its date of publication and will be accompanied by an announcement. Licensees should check Ofcom's website to ensure that they have the most up-to-date version.

In addition to this Guidance, Ofcom will continue to publish advice on specific aspects of Amateur Radio, such as the more detailed requirements regarding the 2.3 GHz and 3.4 GHz bands.

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# 1. Licence details

## The different types and classes of Amateur Radio Licences

- 1.1 The terms and conditions of the Amateur Radio Licence apply to all licensees and operators, depending on the Licence class stated in Section 1 of the Licence. A Licence is either 'Foundation', 'Intermediate', or 'Full'. In the case of a 'Full' Licence, the terms and conditions set out in the Licence apply to all types of Full Licences, including Club Licences and Temporary Reciprocal Licences, unless the Licence expressly states otherwise.
- 1.2 Although it is not currently a condition of the Licence and is not currently required in order to obtain a licence, it helps us to ensure that our records are up-to-date if licensees surrender the lower class of Licence, when progressing from one class to the next. This makes it easier for us to manage licence records.
- 1.3 The Licence shows the 'CEPT equivalent licence class', which relates to the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations ('CEPT') Recommendation T/R 61-01<sup>1</sup>. Under that Recommendation, we have reciprocal agreement with other countries that holders of the highest class of licence may operate in other participating countries. This is explained further below, in the guidance to Licence Clause 16.

## Licensee's name

- 1.4 This is the name of the person to whom the Licence has been issued. The licensee is ultimately answerable for the operation of the station that the Licence covers, be it a personal station (most cases) or a Club station.

## Club licences

- 1.5 If a licence is a Full (Club) Licence, it is still issued to an individual person. That is because different clubs may be constituted differently, making accountability unclear. The club is named on the front of the Licence.
- 1.6 Where Ofcom issues a Full (Club) Licence, the individual person named in Section 1 will be authorised to hold the Licence to the extent that he or she represents the named club. This is stated beneath the table containing the licence details. It makes plain that, although the Licence has been issued to an individual person, it is being held for the purposes of the activities of the club.
- 1.7 Should that individual cease to be associated with the club and Ofcom were satisfied that the licensee no longer represented the club, we may seek to revoke the Licence. We could

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.erodocdb.dk/docs/doc98/official/pdf/TR6101.pdf>

then issue a new Full (Club) Licence, so that club members could continue to use their existing call sign. However, until any such revocation had taken place, the terms and conditions of the existing Licence would continue to apply. This means that until or unless the licence had been revoked, the club’s call sign could only be used with the permission of the named licensee. This is explained further, in the guidance, below, to Clause 4(2)(g).

- 1.8 If the holder of a Full (Club) Licence dies, the Licence dies with them. In that case, another club member must apply for a fresh licence and the application must be supported by two other club officials. The application should also be accompanied by evidence that the erstwhile licensee has died, together with a note of the club’s call sign. Any replacement licence will authorise use of the same call sign, to ensure that the club’s identity remains consistent. We cover this in greater detail in the Guidance to Clause 4, below, on revoking a licence.
- 1.9 A request to make a change to a Full (Club) licence, must be submitted on the Amateur Radio Licence amendment form, Of346a<sup>2</sup>. This is because the form includes a formal declaration that the licensee has due authority to request the change. In the case of a Full (Club) licence, this might mean that, for example, a meeting of the club agreed that the licensee should request the change. If it were subsequently to emerge that the licensee did not have due authority to request the change, we may reverse the change and the licence would revert to the details that applied before that original change.

## Call sign

- 1.10 The UK Amateur Radio Licence reflects the applicable requirements of the ITU Radio Regulations (“RRs”)<sup>3</sup> for Amateur Radio stations to be clearly identified with a call sign. The RR’s also expressly prohibit misleading identities. Amateur Radio stations have global reach and it must be possible for overseas stations or authorities readily to identify the source of a transmission, for example if it is causing interference.
- 1.11 The call signs that Ofcom issues for normal operation under the Amateur Radio Licence are made up of an initial character ‘G’, ‘M’ or ‘2’ (denoting that a station is authorised by the UK), followed by a number and then, normally, three letters. Very old call signs, some of which remain in use, have only two trailing letters. The call sign that we issue shows the level of the station, as set out in the table below.

Call sign initial characters		Station level
Currently issuing:	M7	Foundation
Formerly issued:	M3, M6	
Currently issuing:	2#0	Intermediate <sup>4</sup>
Formerly issued:	2#1	
Currently issuing:	M0	Full (all types)
Formerly issued:	M1, M5, G1, G2, G3, G4, G5, G6, G7, G8, G0	

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/47233/of346.pdf](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/47233/of346.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Radio Regulations – see Glossary

<sup>4</sup> The symbol ‘#’ is included to indicate that the transmitted call sign must **always** include an RSL

- 1.12 In some cases, the call sign that is transmitted must be enhanced with a Regional Secondary Locator (“RSL”), inserted between the initial letter and the number. This is explained below, in the guidance to Clause 2(2).
- 1.13 In the past, some of the call signs that were printed on the face of the Licence included an RSL. However, some did not. This was usually the RSL of the part of the UK in which the Main Station Address was located. In view of the inconsistency and the scope for confusion, we now insert the hash character (“#”) into the call sign printed on the face of the Licence. As is stated in the text in the call sign box the ‘#’ should be replaced by an RSL, if one is to be used. The ‘#’ shows where to place the RSL, if it is to be used.
- 1.14 In the case of an Intermediate Licence, the call sign that is transmitted must always include an RSL, even in England. We explain this below, in the guidance to Clause 2(3).

### Other call signs

- 1.15 Ofcom sometimes authorises a Radio Amateur to use different types of call signs in addition to (or as an alternative to) the call sign on the face of the licence. This could be a Special Contest Call sign or a Special Event Station call sign. Where this has been authorised (normally by varying the individual licence), the format will differ from those described above.

### Reusing old call signs

- 1.16 As a matter of conventional practice, we do not normally recycle call signs that have been used in the past. However, this is not to say that we would not do so.
- 1.17 If the holder of an Amateur Radio Licence were to die, we would not normally consider making the associated call sign available for reassignment to a new licensee, until a reasonable period of time had elapsed. This is because the identity would remain linked with the former station for some time.
- 1.18 If the holder of an Amateur Radio Licence were to take a break from the hobby (surrendering his or her licence) but subsequently reapplied for an Amateur Radio Licence, they may resume use of the old call sign, if it remains available.

### Changing and transferring call signs

- 1.19 We assign each station a unique identifier - its call sign. This enables us to meet our obligations under the RRs, which require stations to be clearly identifiable and which expressly prohibit misleading identities. Being unique, these call signs may not be changed or transferred, other than in exceptional circumstances (perhaps where a licensee has acquired a physical or mental impairment that prevents him or her from using the original call sign). These cases are, however, very rare.

## Mailing (postal) address, Main station address

- 1.20 Under Clause 6 of the Licence, the licensee must notify us of any change to the main station or contact addresses or to the name of the licensee. Inaccurate details hamper our ability to manage the radio spectrum. We may consider revoking a Licence if a licensee fails to maintain these details. This is explained further, below, in the guidance to Clause 4.
- 1.21 While the postal address need not be in the UK or Crown Dependencies, the main station address must be. This is because the main station address is the principal location at which we authorise the station to operate. We do not have jurisdiction to authorise operation in another country. Operating in other countries under international agreement is covered below, in the guidance to Clause 2(1)(b).

## Licence number

- 1.22 This is the unique reference number of the Licence. A licensee may quote a call sign but the licence number should be quoted in all correspondence or any enquiry with Ofcom concerning the Licence, including, for example, any request for a variation.

## 2. Terms, conditions and limitations

### Introduction

- 2.1 The terms, conditions and limitations are based on licence conditions that go back many decades. Over the years, regulators (including Ofcom) have refined them and we shall continue to do so when appropriate.

### Clause 1 – Purpose

- 2.2 Amateur Radio is a radio service that is recognised internationally. The expressions ‘amateur service’ and ‘amateur satellite service’ are defined in the RRs and are used in the frequency schedule of the Licence. Although neither expression is defined in the Licence, the definition of the amateur service in the RRs is:

*“A radiocommunication service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by amateurs, that is, by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.”<sup>5</sup>*

- 2.3 The definition of the amateur satellite service in the RRs is:

*“A radiocommunication service using space stations on earth satellites for the same purposes as those of the amateur service.”<sup>6</sup>*

- 2.4 Ofcom interprets these definitions to mean that Amateur Radio is an activity pursued by individuals for personal (or ‘hobby’) purposes, with no commercial, financial or profit aspect to it. The UK Amateur Radio Licence does not, therefore, authorise the use of Amateur Radio for business purposes.
- 2.5 For example, an individual licensed Radio Amateur who runs a radio equipment shop may install and use amateur Radio Equipment in the shop. With the correct authorisation, that could include running a repeater or a Special Event Station. However, it must not be used to promote any aspect of the business. As long as the equipment is used solely for the individual person to pursue his or her Amateur Radio hobby, then it should remain within the scope of Clause 1 of the Licence.
- 2.6 In 1953, Radio Amateurs provided emergency communications during the floods that affected the east coast of Britain. Since then, arrangements have been in place to make Amateur Radio available to supplement the communication needs of the emergency services. Radio Amateurs are also included in some local civil contingency planning.
- 2.7 The Licence includes specific provisions (Clauses 1(2) and 1(3)) to allow licensees to provide emergency communications to support the response to an incident. Some restrictions are

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<sup>5</sup> Art 1.56 of the RRs.

<sup>6</sup> Art 1.57 of the RRs.



eased for Amateur Radio licensees involved in providing auxiliary communications to user services (as defined in the Licence), in given circumstances. These are covered in greater detail below.

## Clause 2 – Location

- 2.8 The Licence authorises the use of Radio Equipment in the UK at locations away from the Main Station Address, depending on the licence class. Subject to the further guidance below, the available locations include:
- ‘Mobile’;
  - ‘Temporary Location’;
  - ‘Alternative Address’;
  - ‘Maritime Mobile’ (for Full Licences only; not available for Full (Club) or Full (Temporary Reciprocal) Licences; and
  - Other countries where holders of the UK (Full) Licence may operate (see guidance on Clause 2(1)(b), below).
- 2.9 The locations listed above are defined in Clause 17 of the Licence (‘Interpretation’).
- 2.10 Licensees should take account of Note (g)(viii) to Schedule 1 to the Licence. This relates to the use of the 5 MHz band and specifically restricts the operation of Radio Equipment to the Main Station Address or a Temporary Location in the UK only.

### Clause 2(1) - Territorial seas

- 2.11 The Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 applies throughout the United Kingdom and its territorial seas. The expression ‘territorial seas’ is the official expression for what are popularly known and referred to as ‘territorial waters’.
- 2.12 The UK’s territorial seas extend either for 12 nautical miles from the baseline or until a point is reached halfway to another country, such as France. Generally speaking, the ‘baseline’ is the mean low water mark but can be a line across the mouth of a river estuary. Where the Interpretation<sup>7</sup> mentions the ‘low water line along the coastline’, it therefore means ‘baseline’, as described above.
- 2.13 The UK Hydrographic Office has published maps<sup>8</sup> showing the baseline and the extent of UK territorial seas, which may be of assistance to licensees but these maps are for guidance only.
- 2.14 Holders of a Foundation or Intermediate Licence may use their Radio Equipment beyond the baseline but are limited to the extent of UK territorial seas. Holders of the Full Licence are not restricted to the extent of UK territorial seas.

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<sup>7</sup> Clause 17(ss) and 17(tt)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/uk-maritime-limits-and-law-of-the-sea>

## Clause 2(1)(a) - Maritime Mobile

- 2.15 The Licence provides that only a Full licensee may operate 'Maritime Mobile'. This expression refers to a 'Vessel at Sea' and that expression, in turn, refers to operation on the seaward side of the low-water line but without imposing any further territorial restriction. Holders of a Full Licence may thus operate beyond the extent of UK territorial seas.
- 2.16 Maritime Mobile operation is therefore a privilege reserved for these licensees. It is an incentive to those at the Foundation and Intermediate level to progress to the level of the Full licensee.
- 2.17 Although 'Maritime Mobile' operation is reserved for holders of a Full Licence, the holder of a Foundation or Intermediate licence may operate on UK inland or internal waters, including, for example, marinas. This would be 'Mobile' operation.
- 2.18 It is important to understand the effect of the territorial provisions of the Licence on the availability of frequency bands. This is because some bands included in the UK Amateur Radio Licence have been made available by the UK only and are not more widely available. One example is the band at 50 MHz to 52 MHz. Elsewhere in ITU Region 1, this band is allocated to the Broadcasting Service. Similarly, the band from 70 MHz to 70.5 MHz has not been allocated elsewhere in ITU Region 1 to the amateur radio service. That means that these bands may only be used within the UK and its territorial seas.
- 2.19 If operating beyond the limit of UK territorial seas, such bands must not be used elsewhere in ITU Region 1, particularly if operating in the territorial seas of another country (see 'Operating overseas', below). This does not alter the requirement in Clause 7(3) not to cause harmful interference to other users.

## Clause 2(1)(b) – Operating overseas

- 2.20 Please refer also to the guidance on Clause 16, below.
- 2.21 We have reciprocal arrangements with a number of countries, under which Radio Amateurs from each country may operate in the others. These arrangements are contained in two CEPT Recommendations: T/R 61-01<sup>9</sup> (which covers temporary operation in another country) and T/R 61-02<sup>10</sup> (which covers longer-term operation in another country). The two Recommendations list the countries to which they apply. As explained below, we also have bilateral agreements with some other countries.
- 2.22 Operation in any other country (including its territorial seas) remains subject to applicable regulation in that country.

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.erodocdb.dk/docs/doc98/official/pdf/TR6101.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.erodocdb.dk/docs/doc98/official/pdf/TR6102.pdf>

## Temporary operation

- 2.23 Under CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01, Full Licence holders may operate in other participating countries for up to three months, without the need to get an individual authorisation from that country. The licensee must physically be in the country concerned to enjoy this facility. The UK Amateur Radio (Full) Licence enables the holder to illustrate to the authorities overseas that he or she has the competence to operate. This only applies to temporary operation in accordance with CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01. It is not available under a UK Full (Club) Licence or the UK Full (Temporary Reciprocal) Licence.
- 2.24 The holder of an Amateur Radio licence issued by another country that participates in Recommendation T/R 61-01 may operate in the UK for up to three months without applying for a separate UK licence. Licensees from countries that do not participate in Recommendation T/R 61-01 may operate in the UK only if we have a bilateral agreement with the country, allowing this. Countries with which we have bilateral agreements are listed in the Amateur Radio Licence application form, Of346<sup>11</sup>.

## Longer-term operation

- 2.25 If you wish to operate longer-term in another country, you must be licensed by the Administration of that country. Many countries, including the UK, participate in CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-02, which makes provision for radio amateurs from one country to be licensed to operate in another. We also have comparable bilateral reciprocal agreements with some other countries that do not participate in T/R 61-02.
- 2.26 Under T/R 61-02, a radio amateur who holds a Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate (HAREC)<sup>12</sup> issued by a participating country may apply for a licence in another country. HARECs are likely to be issued by the radio amateur's home country but may be issued by any participating country. A UK HAREC is now issued with every pass certificate for the UK Full examination. If you have already passed the UK Full examination but do not have a UK HAREC, you may request one from Ofcom.
- 2.27 A UK HAREC signifies that the holder has passed the UK Full examination. Other countries that participate in T/R 61-02 may issue their equivalent of a UK Full Licence against the UK HAREC. This is designed to cover situations where the licensee will be operating in the other country for longer than is allowed under Recommendation T/R 61-01.
- 2.28 The Amateur Radio Licence application form lists the countries with which the UK has bilateral reciprocal agreements for amateur radio licensing. Under these agreements, the country in question may issue an amateur radio licence to the holder of a UK Amateur Radio (Full) Licence. Requirements vary, so you must consult the authorities in the country in question to establish what is required.

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<sup>11</sup> [https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/47233/of346.pdf](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/47233/of346.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> See the Glossary for more information on HARECs.

- 2.29 A person who holds a HAREC issued by another country that participates in Recommendation T/R 61-02 may apply for a UK Amateur Radio (Full) licence on production of that HAREC. This also applies to UK nationals who have obtained a HAREC from another participating country. If the other country does not participate in T/R 61-02 but we have a bilateral agreement with that country, then we may issue a Full (Temporary Reciprocal) licence, valid for six months. We have published guidance on this<sup>13</sup>.
- 2.30 When overseas, it remains the responsibility of UK licensees to judge when and how to operate. Licensees must comply with the rules of the host country, which may differ from ours. For example, some bands available under the UK Amateur Radio Licence may not be available overseas. Licensees should study the guidance that we have published about operating overseas<sup>14</sup>.
- 2.31 Although Clause 2(1)(b) of the Licence relates to operating overseas, it is not intended to prohibit the operation of a UK Amateur's own main station (situated in the UK) by remote control whilst he or she is abroad, as long as the other licence conditions for remote control are satisfied (see Clause 10). This is because the Radio Equipment will still be based in the UK and, therefore, effectively operated here.
- 2.32 A Radio Amateur in the UK who uses a computer link to operate a radio station located overseas does not need to be covered by an Amateur Radio Licence in the UK for the use of the computer equipment here. This is because the person located in the UK is not using apparatus for wireless telegraphy under our jurisdiction. It would be for whoever is answerable for the radio equipment overseas to ensure that it complied with local requirements.

### Overseas Radio Amateurs operating in the United Kingdom

- 2.33 Under each of the two CEPT Recommendations, licensed Radio Amateurs from participating overseas countries may operate in the UK (and Crown Dependencies) on the same basis. When operating under CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01, they must comply with the terms and conditions of the UK Amateur Radio Licence. They must identify themselves in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation T/R 61-01. This means that they must prefix their home call sign with 'M#/' (and **not** 'G#/') – where '#' is an RSL (if applicable).

### Reciprocal arrangements for 'Novice' licensees

- 2.34 Under a separate Recommendation (ECC Recommendation (05) 06 on CEPT Novice Radio Licence<sup>15</sup>), holders of 'Novice' licences in one participating CEPT country may operate in another. The UK has not adopted this Recommendation. Holders of Novice licences issued

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-your-licence/radiocommunication-licences/amateur-radio/amateur-radio-info#>

<sup>14</sup> <http://licensing.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/spectrum/amateur-radio/guidance-for-licensees/FKM.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.erodocdb.dk/Docs/doc98/official/pdf/REC0506.PDF>

by other CEPT countries may not, therefore, operate under that Recommendation in the UK.

- 2.35 We have made no formal arrangements for the holder of a UK Foundation or Intermediate Licence to operate in other countries. However, we understand that some CEPT countries allow the holder of a UK Foundation or Intermediate Licence to operate there. These countries apply a call sign structure similar to that used for CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01. This is peculiar to the licensing administrations concerned and has no bearing on CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 or any authorisation by way of the UK Amateur Radio Licence. Holders of UK licences should check with any country that they are visiting to establish whether they permit UK 'Novice'<sup>16</sup> licensees to operate there and what arrangements apply.

### Clause 2(1)(c) - Airborne use

- 2.36 The prohibition on airborne operation includes all forms of aircraft, including, for example, balloons (tethered or untethered). Although this does not prohibit use on tall structures, licensees must ensure that, even though such use is not airborne, it does not cause undue interference to any other use of wireless telegraphy<sup>17</sup>.
- 2.37 The prohibition in Clause 2(1)(c) is included because, given the size of its footprint, an airborne signal could affect stations over a large area on the ground. Platforms could be mobile, so the nature of this interference is unpredictable. We must also consider the impact on our neighbours in continental Europe and the Irish Republic. The CAA has also expressed reservations about airborne use.

### High altitude balloons

- 2.38 We know that bursts of telemetry data can be sent from high altitude balloons, using low-power equipment. If this equipment emits only low power levels, then its use may be authorised by exemption regulations<sup>18</sup>. However, the prohibition of airborne use, included in Clause 2(1)(c) of the Amateur Radio licence, prohibits the operation of Amateur Radio equipment from high altitude balloons.
- 2.39 The Amateur Radio Licence may not therefore be employed as a means of authorising the use of licence-exempt frequencies at power levels higher than those permitted by the Exemption Regulations or as a means of authorising the use of frequencies not authorised by the Exemption Regulations.

### Pilotless aircraft ('drones')

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<sup>16</sup> The UK does not issue Amateur Radio Licences called 'Novice' licences. This is the term used in the title of CEPT Recommendation (05)06.

<sup>17</sup> Clause 7(3) of the Amateur Radio licence

<sup>18</sup> <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/spectrum/information/licence-exempt-radio-use>

- 2.40 Ofcom sometimes receives enquiries from those wishing to operate drones<sup>19</sup>, using Amateur Radio bands for telecommand, telemetry or ‘First Person View’ (a pilot’s-eye view of the flight). As the powers permitted by the exemption regulations are limited, some users seek to take advantage of the higher transmit powers permitted under the UK Amateur Radio Licence. This is not the purpose of Amateur Radio and we do not permit this use.
- 2.41 The Amateur Radio Licence may not be employed as a means of authorising the use of licence-exempt frequencies at power levels higher than those permitted by the Exemption Regulations or as a means of authorising the use of frequencies not authorised by the Exemption Regulations.
- 2.42 The CAA has published comprehensive guidance<sup>20</sup> about the use of UAS. This covers air safety aspects and summarises the spectrum availability.

### **Clauses 2(2) and 2(3) - Identifying locations with RSLs**

- 2.43 RSLs were introduced into the UK Amateur Radio Licence in the 1950s. They do not form part of the ‘core’ call sign that we assign to the station. RSLs enhance the ‘core’ call sign<sup>21</sup>, to indicate the UK nation (or Crown Dependency) in which the station is operating. We have published separate guidance on temporary enhancement of call signs<sup>22</sup>.
- 2.44 Clause 2(2) of the Licence requires licensees to use an RSL. However, this does not apply to the holder of a Foundation Licence or an individual (as opposed to Club) Full Licence, when either is operating in England. The holder of a Foundation Licence or an individual Full Licence must not use an RSL when operating in England.
- 2.45 Under Clause 2(3), the holder of an Intermediate Licence (whose call sign will begin with “2”) must always use an RSL, even when in England. This is because the core call sign is in the format ‘20aaa’ or ‘21aaa’, where ‘aaa’ is three letters. This format on its own does not conform to the requirements of the RRs. Inserting the RSL ensures that the call sign, as transmitted, adopts a format that does conform to the RRs. An Intermediate licensee in Northern Ireland, for example, would give the call sign in the format ‘2I0aaa’.
- 2.46 Unless they are operating in England, Clubs must also insert an RSL into the call sign that they transmit. They may use one of the RSLs in Clause 2(2), in which case they must observe the same rules that apply to individual licensees. Alternatively, they may use one of the RSLs listed in Note (c) to the Licence. The RSLs in Note (c) are solely for use by Club

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<sup>19</sup> Also known as Unmanned Airborne Vehicles (“UAVs”), Unmanned Airborne Systems (“UAS”) or Remote Pilotless Aircraft Systems (“RPAS”)

<sup>20</sup> <http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP%20722%20Sixth%20Edition%20March%202015.pdf> and <https://www.caa.co.uk/unmannedaircraft/>

<sup>21</sup> See §§1.10 *et seq* and Table 1

<sup>22</sup> [https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0025/86173/Policy-on-temporary-call-signs-and-call-sign-enhancement.pdf](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0025/86173/Policy-on-temporary-call-signs-and-call-sign-enhancement.pdf)

stations and include an RSL for England ('X'). A club transmitting in England, therefore, may either use no RSL (eg 'M0ABC') or may use 'X' (eg 'MX0ABC').

2.47 A station that was mobile could change its transmitted call sign (ie the call sign including the RSL), as it moved from one part of the UK (or Crown Dependencies) to another. Similarly, if a licensee were to move home from one part of the UK (or Crown Dependencies) to another, the call sign transmitted from the Main Station Address would change, with a change to the RSL. Licensees must decide how best to observe the requirement to include an RSL, while ensuring that the station remains clearly identifiable at all times.

2.48 The following table sets out the available permanent RSLs:

**Table 1 - Regional Secondary Locators**

Licence class	Nation or Dependency	RSL to be used
Foundation	England	None
	Northern Ireland	I
	Scotland	M
	Wales	W
	Guernsey	U
	Jersey	J
	Isle of Man	D
Intermediate	England	E
	Northern Ireland	I
	Scotland	M
	Wales	W
	Guernsey	U
	Jersey	J
	Isle of Man	D
Full (except Full (Club))	England	None
	Northern Ireland	I
	Scotland	M
	Wales	W
	Guernsey	U
	Jersey	J
	Isle of Man	D
Full (Club)	England	None or X
	Northern Ireland	I or N
	Scotland	M or S
	Wales	W or C
	Guernsey	U or P
	Jersey	J or H
	Isle of Man	D or T

## Clause 3 - Operators and qualifications

- 2.49 Normally, a station may be operated only by the licensee or by someone else who holds a UK Amateur Radio Licence. However, the Licence allows others to use the station in some circumstances.
- 2.50 If the Licence is an Amateur Radio (Full) or a Full (Club) Licence, a person on a Recognised Foundation Training Course<sup>23</sup> may use the station. This relates to the period of formal instruction. It is not intended to cover a licensee who decides to allow an unqualified person to use the station at any other time that they may choose.
- 2.51 It is important to observe this condition, to ensure that standards in the use of Amateur Radio stations are maintained.

## Clause 4 - Variation and revocation

- 2.52 From time to time, Ofcom may need to vary or revoke a licence. For example, a variation may be required in order to change the spectrum bands available to Amateur Radio. Alternatively, a breach of the terms and conditions of the Licence may result in its revocation. The other grounds on which Ofcom might seek to revoke a licence are set out in Clause 4(2). We explain this in our Licensing Policy Manual<sup>24</sup>
- 2.53 To vary or revoke a licence, Ofcom must follow the process and the timetable set out in Schedule 1 of the WT Act. We must notify the licensee that we propose to vary or revoke the licence, set out the nature of the proposed action and give the reasons for the proposed action. We must allow the licensee to make representations about our proposals. In most cases, the licensee has a month to make these<sup>25</sup>.
- 2.54 If we revoke a licence because a person has breached licence conditions and if that person were subsequently to apply for a new licence, we would want to be satisfied that the applicant could comply with all of the terms and conditions of the Licence before we granted it<sup>26</sup>. How we would be satisfied of that would depend on the circumstances of each case.

## Clause 4(2)(g) - Club Licences

- 2.55 As outlined above, Ofcom may seek to revoke a Full (Club) Licence, where the licensee no longer represents the club.
- 2.56 On occasion, rifts may emerge within clubs and the individual person who holds the Club Licence may become estranged from others in the club. As the named licensee may

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<sup>23</sup> As defined in Clause 17(dd) of the Licence.

<sup>24</sup> See §11 of [https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0025/77209/licensing.pdf](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0025/77209/licensing.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> The period for making representations may be shorter or longer than a month, depending on the particular circumstances, as set out in Schedule 1 of the WT Act.

<sup>26</sup> Under Article 5(c) of the Wireless Telegraphy (Limitation of Number of Licences) Order 2014, we may take into account the ability of each applicant for a wireless telegraphy licence to meet the licence terms, provisions and limitations applying to that wireless telegraphy licence.



withhold permission for other club members to operate the station under the Licence, this means that the club call sign (which is tied to the licence) may not be used without that individual's permission.

- 2.57 If the club members were to apply for a new licence, Ofcom would have to assign a fresh call sign. We could not assign the same call sign as it would already be assigned under an existing licence. This is disruptive for the club and for those who know it under the former call sign. Changing the call sign may also render the club's identity misleading and may not therefore comply with the requirements of the RRs.
- 2.58 If we were satisfied that the individual licensee no longer represented the club, then, to ensure continuity of identity and reduce the risk of misleading identity, we might propose to revoke the Club Licence. Revoking the existing licence would release the call sign, which we could then re-assign under a new licence to a new licensee who would then hold the licence on the club's behalf. If we were to revoke a Club Licence in this manner, the former licensee would not be a Disqualified Person for the purposes of Clause 3(3)(c)II of the Licence.
- 2.59 It is for a club to satisfy us that an existing licensee no longer represents the club. This might be via an excerpt minute of the club committee (or the full club) or the club may choose an alternative means. As with any proposed revocation, we must have evidence to support the revocation. We would seek representations from the existing licensee, whose licence we were proposing to revoke.
- 2.60 If the holder of a Full (Club) licence were to die, the call sign would no longer be tied to a licence and could be reassigned but only to identify the same club. A new licensee (representing the same club) must apply for a new Full (Club) licence, supported in the normal manner by two other club officials. We do not simply transfer a call sign from one licensee to another.

### **Clause 4(2)(h) – Convictions**

- 2.61 This clause is intended to reflect the definition of 'Disqualified Person'<sup>27</sup>, which refers to a person convicted within the past six months of an offence under the WT Act. TV licensing is now covered by the Communications Act 2003, so not having a TV licence is no longer an offence under the WT Act.

### **Clause 4(5) - Failure to revalidate**

- 2.62 It is important for Ofcom to have accurate licensee details. If a licensee fails to maintain their details (revalidating the licence as described in Clause 6(3)), we may propose to revoke the licence, subject to clause 4(5). If we are unable to contact licensees, it can undermine our ability to regulate the operation of amateur radio equipment effectively.

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<sup>27</sup> See Clause 17(1)(i) of the Licence

- 2.63 During the revocation process, the licensee could still revalidate the licence. If the only reason that we had proposed revocation was the licensee's failure to revalidate the Licence, we could decide not to revoke the Licence, if we were satisfied that the grounds contained in Clause 4(5) no longer applied. However, we would assess each case on its merits.
- 2.64 Licences are valid indefinitely, unless surrendered by the licensee or revoked by Ofcom. It is the responsibility of the licensee to confirm to us that Licence details (name, address and so on) remain valid. To validate your licence, you must log in to the Online Licensing System<sup>28</sup>. An on-screen prompt will appear asking you to check and update or confirm your details, to do this use the 'Verify my details' button.

## Clause 4(6) - Further variation in respect of the 2300 MHz and 3400 MHz bands

- 2.65 In 2015, we varied all Amateur Radio Licences to remove some frequencies in the 2300 MHz (13 cm) and 3400 MHz (9 cm) bands respectively. This was to enable the MOD to release them<sup>29</sup>. That consultation made clear that we may wish to remove further frequencies in those bands, where this would require a further variation to the Licence. In the meantime, licensees should be aware of the specific guidance for ongoing use of the remaining spectrum by amateurs in these bands that must be followed as it is shared with MOD.<sup>30</sup>
- 2.66 Although we may already vary a licence for the purpose of managing the radio spectrum<sup>31</sup> or if we are directed to do so by the Secretary of State<sup>32</sup>, we decided to include a specific ground in relation to the remaining frequencies in the 2300 MHz and 3400 MHz bands, respectively, for clarity. Clause 4(6) therefore provides that if we need to remove the specified sub-bands, we shall give three months' notice.

## Clause 5 - Modification, restriction and closedown

- 2.67 In some cases, we may require a station to be closed down totally or in part, usually because we are investigating interference. The Licence authorises the use of the 5 MHz band only if Licensees can be contacted by 'phone. This is so that we can get the station closed down promptly, if we are investigating interference.
- 2.68 Any Ofcom field officer requesting a licensee to modify or close down a station will carry an identity card.

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<sup>28</sup> <https://ofcom.force.com>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-2/public-sector-spectrum-release>

<sup>30</sup> [http://licensing.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/spectrum/amateur-radio/guidance-for-licensees/Guidance to protect MoD systems using the 2 3 GHz band.pdf](http://licensing.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/spectrum/amateur-radio/guidance-for-licensees/Guidance%20to%20protect%20MoD%20systems%20using%20the%202%203%20GHz%20band.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> Clause 4(2)(e) of the Licence

<sup>32</sup> Clause 4(2)(d) of the Licence

## Clause 6 – Changes

- 2.69 Clause 6(2) requires the licensee to maintain up-to-date details. If a licensee fails to do so, it may constitute a breach of the terms and conditions of the licence and we may propose revocation of the Licence on the grounds contained in Clause 4(2)(b).
- 2.70 If a licensee's name or postal address or the Main Station Address changes, we must know, so that we can maintain our licensing records. We also need up-to-date contact details, such as a mobile phone number. We require these details to enable us to manage the radio spectrum and remedy cases of interference.
- 2.71 Under note (g)(x) to Schedule 1 of the licence, licensees may use the 5 MHz band only if they can be contacted by 'phone. We impose this requirement, so that we can get the station closed down promptly. If contact details have not been maintained, we cannot do so and it may constitute a breach of this condition, in addition to a breach of Clause 6(2).
- 2.72 You can update your contact details via the licensing portal<sup>33</sup>, which is also the quickest way of ensuring that new details are recorded.
- 2.73 If none of your details changes, the Licence must be still revalidated at least every five years (see guidance to Clause 4(5), above).

## Clause 7 – Equipment

- 2.74 With the exception of Foundation licensees, Amateur Radio licensees may use whatever equipment they wish, if its use complies with the terms and conditions of the Licence. There is no general requirement for Amateur Radio apparatus to conform to the essential requirements of the Radio Equipment Directive<sup>34</sup> ("RED"). However, the RED does cover commercially available Amateur Radio apparatus ('plug-and-play' equipment or kits designed to be assembled into 'plug-and-play' equipment).
- 2.75 Holders of the Foundation Licence have demonstrated only limited technical competence and so pose a greater risk of causing harmful interference (even if inadvertently) if they construct their own apparatus. We therefore restrict holders of the Foundation Licence to apparatus that conforms to Interface Requirement IR 2028<sup>35</sup> or is assembled from kits, which conform to IR 2028. We believe that if apparatus conforms to IR2028 it should be possible to demonstrate its conformity with the essential requirements of the RED. Through IR 2028, we therefore manage the risk of inadvertent harmful interference.
- 2.76 In some cases, different members of a family may all be licensed Radio Amateurs but at different levels. However, there might only be one 'station'. In that case, whoever

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<sup>33</sup> <https://ofcom.force.com>

<sup>34</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014L0053&from=EN;>

<sup>35</sup> [https://www.ofcom.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0028/53965/ir2028.pdf](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0028/53965/ir2028.pdf)

operates the station must comply with all of the terms and conditions of his or her particular class of Amateur Radio licence.

- 2.77 For example, if one family member holds a Foundation Licence, then that licensee may only use IR 2028 apparatus (see above), unless operating under the supervision of a Full Licence holder. The use of the IR 2028 equipment must also comply with all of the other Licence conditions, such as power limits.

## Clause 8 - Access and inspection

- 2.78 Ofcom must be able to identify and remedy undue interference<sup>36</sup>. It is important for Amateur Radio licensees (in common with all other WT Act licensees) to help Ofcom field officers remedy (and prevent) such interference. All Ofcom field officers carry an identity card.

## Clause 9 – Limitations

- 2.79 The Radio Regulations make the master of a ship responsible for ensuring that all use of radio on board complies with the RRs. For a UK-flagged ship, this is applied by section 105 of the WT Act, which makes the master of a UK flagged ship ultimately answerable in court for any radio transmission from that ship. The UK Amateur Radio (Full) Licence permits the use of the Radio Equipment on a ship. Clause 9(3) of the Licence therefore requires licensees to obtain the written permission of the ship's master before transmitting from any vessel, no matter where the ship is flagged. Licensees must also comply with instructions issued by the master of the vessel relating to the use of the Radio Equipment.
- 2.80 The ITU divides the world into three Regions<sup>37</sup>. The bands and frequencies available to services, including the amateur radio service, vary from one Region to another. Individual countries, too, may impose restrictions. UK Radio Amateurs operating overseas must therefore familiarise themselves (and comply) with locally applicable restrictions which may differ from those in the UK. This might, for example, concern restrictions on the use of particular frequency bands. This is also covered in the guidance to Clause 2(1)(a) and below in the guidance to Clause 16.

## Clause 10 - Unattended and remote control operation

- 2.81 The Licence describes 'Unattended Operation' as the operation of Radio Equipment by the Licensee when the location of the Licensee is different from the location of the Radio Equipment. 'Remote Control' Operation' is described as Unattended Operation but where the Radio Equipment is operated by remote control, that is, where the Licensee has the

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<sup>36</sup> As defined in s115 of the WT Act.

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/index.asp?category=information&rlink=emergency-bands&lang=en>

ability to control the Radio Equipment from a different location from that of the Radio Equipment.

- 2.82 The distinction between these two terms is what the operator is able to do at the remote location. If an operator can simply transmit and receive through the station and no more, then this would be 'Unattended Operation'. However, if the operator in the remote location can, for example, switch the transmitter on or off, retune it or change other characteristics of it, then we believe that that should be viewed as 'Remote Control Operation'.
- 2.83 The call sign used when a station is operated by remote control is the call sign of the station (transmitter) location, including, where appropriate, an RSL. That may not therefore be the current location of the operator. For example, if the holder of a UK Amateur (Full) Licence were physically in France but their station (ie the station that they were operating) was located in Scotland, the station must be identified using the UK call sign, including the RSL 'M'.
- 2.84 The WT Act and the Amateur Radio Licences that we issue under it relate only to the use of radio. No matter how a station is being operated, it is the actual use of the station that is subject to the WT Act and the Amateur Radio Licence. Whoever holds the licence must ensure that the use of the station complies with the Licence. This may mean that the licensee must implement monitoring or other checks in order to take reasonable steps to ensure compliance with the Licence or to remedy any breaches that emerge.

## Clause 11 - Messages

### User services (RAYNET etc)

- 2.85 Some Amateur Radio licensees provide support to ambulance services, mountain rescue teams or similar services. These organisations are listed in the Licence as 'user services', as follows:
- the British Red Cross;
  - St John Ambulance;
  - the St Andrew's Ambulance Association;
  - the Royal Voluntary Service;
  - the Salvation Army;
  - any Government Department; and
  - any 'Category 1' responder and any 'Category 2' responder as defined in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.
- 2.86 We recognise that the needs of these services may require individual Amateur Radio licensees to operate in a manner not generally permitted under the Amateur Radio Licence. While our broad position is that all licensees should comply with the same terms and conditions, the Licence does include some particular provisions for those licensees who are supporting a user service, including the facility to encrypt messages.

- 2.87 Amateur Radio is designed as a hobby for the enjoyment of all participants, which is why licensees may not generally encrypt messages. The RRs allow<sup>38</sup> messages to be transmitted to another country on behalf of third parties in emergencies or for disaster relief but they specifically prohibit<sup>39</sup> the encryption of transmissions between the Amateur Radio stations of different countries. Licensees transmitting messages on behalf of user services should therefore ensure that, if a message is to be transmitted to another country, it is not encrypted.
- 2.88 On occasion, a local user service incident commander may want information to be encrypted. Clause 11(2) of the Amateur Radio Licence permits an Amateur Radio licensee to encrypt such messages, when sent on behalf of a user service. As provided for by Clause 11(2)(b), encryption includes the intention of rendering the message unintelligible to other Radio Amateurs.
- 2.89 We expect encryption to be needed only very rarely. The presumption is that messages will not be encrypted, unless there is a specific need for operational purposes, for example the transmission of a casualty's personal data or the location of an incident. Encryption must only be used at the request of a local incident commander. It is not a decision for the individual licensee alone.
- 2.90 UK Amateur Radio Licensees must exercise care when transmitting encrypted messages that can be received in another country. If the message is consciously being sent across a border, the Licensee must be satisfied that commanders on both sides of a border agree that the message must be encrypted before it is sent, unless a delay could imperil life. The Licensee must also ensure that the station is clearly identifiable, should foreign (or UK) stations wish to trace the signal.
- 2.91 As soon as practicable, the UK Amateur Radio licensee should record in the station log the times, dates and frequencies used, in broad terms why the message had to be encrypted and who requested it. The log should also record the encryption method and key used.

## Initial ("CQ") calls from club stations

- 2.92 The purpose of Amateur Radio is to discuss matters of interest with other Radio Amateurs (individually or in networks), using the skills acquired as a qualified Radio Amateur. Clause 11(4)(a) of the Licence states that the licensee must not send messages for general reception, except for initial ("CQ") calls. In the case of a Full (Club) licence, any club member who is operating under (and in accordance with the terms and conditions of) the Licence may make a CQ call.

## Clause 12 – Log

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<sup>38</sup> Article 25.3

<sup>39</sup> Article 25.2A

- 2.93 The log is a useful means of noting operational characteristics of the station, such as (but not limited to) times and dates of transmissions, frequencies used and other stations contacted. The Licence does not require every licensee to maintain a log of all transmissions, though Ofcom may require certain aspects to be recorded in a log from time to time.
- 2.94 If a station is operating in support of a user service, the licensee should maintain a log of any exceptional activity. This means any transmission that is permitted, exceptionally, for the purposes of supporting a user service, as provided for by Clause 11(2) of the Licence. This includes those occasions where encrypted messages are involved, as described above.

## Clause 13 – Identification

- 2.95 The Licence requires that the station must be clearly identifiable at all times. This does not mean that the station's identity must be transmitted constantly but simply that another station must be able to identify the transmitting station clearly, with relative ease.
- 2.96 The usual way of identifying an Amateur Radio station is by the unique call sign that Ofcom has assigned to it. The Licence provides that the call sign must be transmitted as frequently as is practicable during transmissions. This wording is borrowed from the RRs<sup>40</sup>, which also provide that Amateur Radio stations should transmit their call sign at short intervals<sup>41</sup>.
- 2.97 The Licence used to stipulate that the call sign must be transmitted at least once every fifteen minutes. Many Radio Amateurs still view that as 'best practice'. If operators are working in voice or Morse code, then this interval seems sensible but not every situation may lend itself to such a strict requirement.
- 2.98 It is for individual operators or licensees to determine how often a call sign or other identification is transmitted, to comply with the requirement in Clause 13(1)(a) that the station be clearly identifiable at all times. This includes digital transmissions, where, again, licensees must determine how to comply with the overall requirement. One solution might be to embed the call sign into the signal. It is unclear how a station would be clearly identified if it did not, as an absolute minimum, identify itself at the beginning and end of transmissions.
- 2.99 We recognise that there is increasing use of digital equipment, modes and software that can embed call signs. Licensees must therefore exercise due care when borrowing equipment or installing software, to ensure that any previous or default embedded call sign is updated accordingly to ensure that the licence condition requiring clear identification is fully satisfied.

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<sup>40</sup> Art 19.17

<sup>41</sup> Art 25.9

- 2.100 Certain modes of operation may warrant only infrequent transmission of the call sign. One example might be some slow, low frequency QRSS<sup>42</sup> experimentation. However, this does not remove the requirement to be clearly identifiable. If necessary, operators should consider a complementary, faster transmission at the start of the experiment, or at more regular intervals on an adjacent channel or sub-tone.
- 2.101 Other modes of operation, such as voice conversations involving several participants or repeater use, may warrant more frequent identification.
- 2.102 If a station were to remain unidentified, particularly if it were causing interference or if we believed that it was deliberate, then we might take action to ensure that the station was clearly identifiable. If an operator deliberately uses a false identity, it places the UK in breach of its obligations under the RRs. It is a serious breach of licence conditions and we are more likely to take action to remedy that.
- 2.103 When using the 5 MHz bands, however, we impose stricter rules on identification. These bands are allocated in the UK to the MOD as the primary user. The use of the band has been agreed with the MOD and we make special provisions for transmitting call signs when using these bands, in note (g) to Schedule 1 of the Licence. There is Guidance on Schedule 1, below.

## Clause 14 - Recorded or retransmitted Messages

- 2.104 When considering transmitting recorded messages or retransmitting messages, licensees should note the requirements not only of Clause 14 of the Licence but also applicable provisions of other Clauses, such as Clause 10 (unattended and remote control operation) and 11, notably Clause 11(4) (messages sent by a station) though other provisions may apply in different circumstances. While there is therefore flexibility for individual amateurs to undertake activity for personal use or to convey specific messages to a specific recipient, general third-party usage is outside the scope of the licence terms and conditions.
- 2.105 Consequently, unsupervised general-use repeaters, gateways, data nodes and beacons etc are not permitted by the standard licence terms and conditions and require a specific licence variation to authorise their 'keeper' to install and use them. This is because they allow general unsupervised access by other licensees.

## Clause 15 – Fees

- 2.106 This is a standard clause that we include in most licences. It also appears in Condition 3 of our General Conditions Licence Booklet<sup>43</sup>.

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<sup>42</sup> QRSS is transmission at very low speeds. The abbreviation is derived from the 'Q' code 'QRS' meaning "Send more slowly"

<sup>43</sup> [https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0032/89744/General\\_Licence\\_Conditions.pdf](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0032/89744/General_Licence_Conditions.pdf)



- 2.107 Generally, we do not currently levy a fee for the Amateur Radio Licence or for variations. Fees are payable for licences that are produced manually. Applicants over 75 years of age do not pay a licence fee. Where we do charge a fee or if we were to charge a general fee, then the applicant or licensee must pay that fee. If a fee were to remain unpaid, we may revoke the licence.
- 2.108 We do not currently plan to introduce a general licence fee for the Amateur Radio Licence. However, in 2014, we set out a timetable for reviewing all cost based fees. In the associated Statement<sup>44</sup>, we said that we were likely to address the fees for Amateur Radio in 2016 or 2017. This does not mean that the reintroduction of a general fee is inevitable. Any change to the current fee structure, the fees charged or the basis of any charge would probably be the subject of consultation before being implemented.

## Clause 16 – Operation by the licensee in CEPT countries

- 2.109 Please also refer to the guidance on Clause 2(1)(b), above.
- 2.110 Under reciprocal arrangements, holders of a UK Amateur Radio (Full) Licence may operate for up to three months in some other countries without the need for a separate licence from that country. The countries to which this applies are listed in CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-0145, which also sets out the arrangements. However, this facility is not available to holders of UK Full (Club) or Full (Temporary Reciprocal) Licences.
- 2.111 Club stations may not operate overseas, as they allow the station to be used by operators below the Full Licence standard. Moreover, the CEPT Recommendation does not make provision for Club stations.
- 2.112 Holders of the Full (Temporary Reciprocal) licence may not operate overseas as they have only demonstrated that they have attained a standard acceptable to the UK. This may not be acceptable to all CEPT countries.
- 2.113 When operating in another country, it is particularly important for Radio Amateurs to ensure that they are clearly identifiable. CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 requires visiting Radio Amateurs to use their home call sign, after a local prefix<sup>46</sup>. When operating overseas under this Recommendation, UK Radio Amateurs should use the unenhanced UK call sign (eg 'MOABC'), that is, without an RSL. This is because the RSL identifies the Nation of the UK or the Crown Dependency from which the transmission is actually being made. The example given, when operating in Belgium would thus be identified as 'ON/MOABC'.
- 2.114 If, extraordinarily, another country permits the Holder of a UK Amateur Radio Licence, other than the Full Licence, to operate in that country, the UK licensee should seek advice on, and comply with, local requirements in respect of the call sign to be used.

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<sup>44</sup> <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-1/cbframework>

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.erodocdb.dk/docs/doc98/official/pdf/TR6101.pdf>

<sup>46</sup> Article 2.3: "When transmitting in the visited country the licence holder must use his national call sign preceded by the call sign prefix of the visited country as indicated in ANNEX 2: and ANNEX 4"

## Notes to the Licence

### Note (d) – Suffixes

- 2.115 Under Note (d) to the Licence, a licensee may use the suffixes '/M', '/P', '/A' or '/MM', to denote a location away from the Main Station Address though their use is optional. If a licensee were unsure which suffix was most suitable or thought that using a suffix could affect the requirement for the station to be clearly identifiable at all times, it may be simpler (and would not breach Note (d)) to omit the suffix. That is not a choice with RSLs, as the Licence mandates their use.
- 2.116 Other administrations may not recognise UK call sign suffixes or permit their use. When operating overseas, therefore, licensees must comply with the requirements of the authorities, locally, on the use of suffixes.

## Notes to Schedule 1

### Note (f) - Access to 472 kHz to 479 kHz

- 2.117 Access to frequencies in the band from 472 kHz to 479 kHz was formerly granted by varying individual licences. Following our 2014 consultation, we built this authorisation into the Licence but without changing its effect. The same terms and therefore apply.

### Note (f)(iii) – interference to and from electronic equipment

- 2.118 This note applies specifically to the 472 kHz to 479 kHz band, as opposed to the other bands used by Amateur Radio and Ofcom does not propose to apply it to other bands. Licensees should note, however, the general requirement in in Clause 7(3) of the Licence not to cause undue interference.

### Note (f)(v) - close down on interference

- 2.119 This Note requires the licensee to cease using the band, if the station causes interference to the Aeronautical Radionavigation service or the Maritime Mobile service. Use may resume only if the interference has been remedied. Having ceased use, a licensee must be able to determine whether or not interference is still being caused and this may entail the need for test transmissions.
- 2.120 This Note need not therefore apply an absolute and indefinite ban on such test transmissions. However, the licensee remains responsible for avoiding harmful interference to these services.
- 2.121 It could aid investigations into any report of interference, were details of these test transmissions recorded in the station's log. This could include a summary of the report of interference and the remedial action taken, details of the person at the affected service

whom the Amateur Radio licensee has consulted, as well as the technical characteristics, date, time and duration of test transmissions.

- 2.122 The licensee must decide whether or not to undertake test transmissions, if a user in one of the affected services has expressed concerns about the risk of interference being caused by such tests.

### **Note (g) - Access to frequencies between 5.2585 MHz and 5.4065 MHz**

- 2.123 Access to frequencies in the band from 5.2585 MHz to 5.4065 MHz was formerly granted by varying individual licences. Following our 2014 consultation, we decided to incorporate this authorisation into the Amateur Radio Licence, without changing its effect. The same terms and conditions are therefore applied.

#### **Note (g)(iv) - close down on interference**

- 2.124 The licensee must cease using the band, if the station causes interference to MOD uses of the band. Use by the Radio Amateur may resume only if the interference has been remedied. Having ceased use, a licensee must be able to determine whether or not interference is still being caused and this may entail the need for test transmissions.
- 2.125 This Note need not therefore apply an absolute and indefinite ban on such test transmissions. However, the licensee remains responsible for avoiding harmful interference to these services.
- 2.126 It could aid investigations into any report of interference, were details of these test transmissions recorded in the station's log. This could include a summary of the report of interference and the remedial action taken, details of the person at the MOD whom the Radio Amateur has consulted, as well as technical characteristics, date, time and duration of test transmissions.
- 2.127 It remains the responsibility of the licensee to ensure that interference is avoided. The licensee must decide whether or not to undertake test transmissions, if a user in one of the affected services has expressed concerns about the risk of interference being caused by such tests

#### **Note (g)(x) - contact by telephone**

- 2.128 In order to resolve any interference caused by a Radio Amateur's use of frequencies between 5.2585 MHz and 5.4065 MHz, we (or others) must be able to contact the licensee by telephone. We believe that telephone is the only means of contact that provides reliable and immediate access to the licensee. The licensee is therefore responsible for ensuring that he or she can be contacted promptly. This includes, for example, ensuring that the battery of a mobile 'phone will last for the duration of the transmissions and that he or she is not in a mobile 'phone 'not-spot'.

- 2.129 It is also important that we have up-to-date contact details in our systems. If the MOD suffers interference and has the station call sign, they may contact us to get the address or telephone number of the licensee. The quickest way of updating contact details is via our online licensing portal<sup>47</sup>. If this is unavailable, licensees may send an e-mail notification to [spectrum.licensing@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:spectrum.licensing@ofcom.org.uk).

## Schedule 2

- 2.130 Schedule 2 restricts the unattended operation of beacons in a series of frequency bands around a number of defined locations. These locations can be looked up with publicly available mapping tools. The locations and frequencies have been carried forward from earlier versions of the Licence, subject only to the minimum necessary modifications for changes to 2.3 and 3.4 GHz allocations. While these geographic restrictions are designed to protect specific sites, all licensees must ensure<sup>48</sup> that the station does not cause undue interference to any wireless telegraphy and to conduct tests from time to time to ensure that it does not.

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<sup>47</sup> <https://ofcom.force.com>

<sup>48</sup> Clause 7(3) and 7(5) of the Licence

## A1. Glossary

CAA	Civil Aviation Authority – the UK economic regulator for civil aviation	
CDs	Crown Dependencies: Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man	
CEPT	European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations. CEPT proposes a lot of European spectrum policy and initiates the drafting of some technical standards. CEPT is used by the EU to assist in the formulation of policy and standards.  See: <a href="http://www.cept.org/cept">http://www.cept.org/cept</a>	
HAREC	Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate. This is provided for by CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-02. See: <a href="http://www.erodocdb.dk/docs/doc98/official/pdf/TR6102.pdf">http://www.erodocdb.dk/docs/doc98/official/pdf/TR6102.pdf</a>	
IR/Interface Requirement	Technical parameters published by Ofcom, relating to specified equipment. Conformity with an IR should enable the user to demonstrate that the equipment conforms to the essential requirements of the RED/R&TTED.	
ITU	International Telecommunication Union. A UN organisation and the principal international forum for agreeing how the radio spectrum should be used. It organises regular World Radio Conferences (WRCs) and publishes the international Radio Regulations  See: <a href="http://www.itu.int/en/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.itu.int/en/Pages/default.aspx</a>	
Ofcom	The Office of Communications – the UK spectrum regulator	
R&TTED	Radio and Telecommunication Terminal Equipment Directive ( <a href="#">1999/5/EC</a> ); to be replaced by the RED	
RED	Radio Equipment Directive ( <a href="#">2014/53/EU</a> ); replaces the R&TTED	
RRs	The Radio Regulations. The rules (published by the ITU) agreed by the international community at the ITU, on the use of the radio spectrum.	
RSL	Regional Secondary Locator. This is defined in the Licence	
The Licence	Any version or official variant of the UK Amateur Radio Licence	
T/R 61-01	A CEPT Recommendation allowing amateurs from a participating country to operate for up to three months in another country, without the need to obtain specific individual authorisation from the country being visited.	
T/R 61-02	A CEPT Recommendation under which a participating country recognises a ‘HAREC’ (see above) issued by another country as evidence that the holder has demonstrated sufficient competence to be granted the equivalent of the UK Full Licence.	
UAS UAV RPAS	Unmanned Airborne System Unmanned Airborne Vehicle Remote Pilotless Aircraft System	Popularly known as drones
WT Act	The Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 (as amended) and associated legislation.	