

REGULATIONS

Amateur radio operating procedures Answers

1. What is the difference between an assigned and unassigned licence?
 - **An assigned licence – the ACMA allocates the frequencies for use.**
 - **A non-assigned licence – the operator shares frequencies with other users**
2. What must amateurs **NOT** do?
 - **use a station for financial gain or reward**
 - **transmit advertising or any form of entertainment.**
3. What are the ways you can identify your station?

You can identify by voice (using the English language), by visual image or by an internationally recognised code (for example, Morse).

4. How often and when should you identify your station?

You should use your call sign:

- **every time you start a transmission**
- **every time you finish a transmission**
- **at least once every 10 minutes during a transmission that lasts for more than 10 minutes.**

Once communications have been established with another station, it is not necessary to use call signs every 'over' – call signs must be used every 10 minutes.

5. What is the purpose of amateur radio?

Amateur stations are used for:

- **self-training in and technical investigations of radiocommunications**
- **communicating with other amateurs**
- **transmitting news and information about the operation of amateur radio stations**

6. If you are participating in an emergency services exercise, can I use other terms instead of my call sign?

Yes. If you are participating in an emergency services exercise (for example, Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network), operational call signs, like mobile 1, base 2, are often used.

7. If you operate your station for emergency services operations or training exercises, how often should I announce my call sign?

- **every time you start a transmission**
- **every time you finish a transmission**
- **at least once every 30 minutes during a transmission or series of transmissions that lasts for more than 30 minutes.**

8. When would you add a suffix to your call sign such as, "portable 8"?

When operating your amateur radio station portable, you may add the numeral of the state or territory you are operating to the end of your call sign.

9. What are the restrictions on using coded messages?

Transmissions from an amateur station must not be encrypted or scrambled, except for signals used to control a satellite, signals used to control a remote amateur station or by stations participating in emergency services operations or exercises.

10. Can I transmit on non-amateur frequencies?

Amateur radio operators are not normally allowed to transmit on non-amateur frequencies (for example, fire, police, marine), even in a disaster.

11. What are the rules on third party traffic?

You must not transmit a message on behalf of a non-amateur (third-party traffic) unless the message relates to a disaster.

12. What must I have if I wish to retransmit another station's transmission?

If you re-transmit another station's transmission, you must have the other station's permission and indicate it is a retransmission.

13. Can a Foundation licence holder use a Club call sign to access frequencies outside the Foundation boundaries?

A club call sign may also be used by an amateur with a standard or foundation qualification, provided they operate in accordance with their respective licence conditions (including frequencies and power levels).

14. Should an amateur inform the ACMA of a change of address?

No requirement in the regulation however, Amateur call sign holders should keep their contact details up to date with the ACMA. This allows us to contact you when your call sign needs to be reconfirmed or you need to have your call sign reassigned.

If your details are incorrect and we can't contact you, your call sign may be cancelled.

15. When should you notify the ACMA of a change of address?

Licensees must provide an updated address to the ACMA if they intend to operate for a continuous period of more than:

- for an amateur beacon or an amateur repeater station – 7 days
- for a non-assigned station – 4 months.

16. What are primary and secondary users of the radio spectrum?

The radio spectrum is divided between primary and secondary users.

- **Primary users are the principal users of that segment of the radio spectrum.**
- **Secondary users share the spectrum segment with primary users, but they must not cause harmful interference to primary users and cannot claim protection from harmful interference caused by primary users.**

- **Amateurs have primary use status in most HF bands, the 52–54 and 144–148 MHz bands and some SHF and EHF bands. Amateurs should check the [Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan](#) for full details.**

17. What is an Emission mode designator code?

The ITU has developed a system of letters and numbers to identify different radio transmission types. They provide an internationally recognised standard by which to specify, accurately and concisely, the significant characteristics of a transmission.

The first 4 letters/numbers represent the necessary bandwidth of the signal, '2K80' means two thousand, eight hundred Hz, or 2800 Hz. The final 3 letters/numbers represent the modulation used, 'J' means the carrier is amplitude modulated, '3' means single channel analogue and 'E' means telephony (speech).

18. What is a spurious emission?

Spurious emissions from an amateur station can cause interference to other stations and services.

19. Complete the following table.

Level	Telephony	Telegraphy	Reason for call
Distress	Mayday	SOS	A distress signal indicates that a person is threatened by grave and imminent danger and requires immediate assistance.
Urgency	Pan Pan	XXX	In cases where the use of the distress signal is not fully justified, the urgency signal may be used.
Securite	Securite		This is a safety signal used to transmit information about the safety of navigation.

20. How often should each transmission be sent?

Three times e.g. Mayday, Mayday, Mayday.

21. On hearing a distress call, what must the operator do?

When a distress call is heard, you must:

- **immediately cease all transmissions**
- **continue to listen on the frequency**
- **record full details of the distress message.**

If the distress message is not acknowledged within a reasonable time, the amateur operator is obliged to respond.

After acknowledging or attempting to acknowledge receipt of the distress message, you must immediately forward details of the distress situation to the emergency services eg Police.

22. Your radio is tuned to the correct frequency, the power level is set and the squelch is adjusted. What are the next three steps you must perform before making any calls?

- **Listen**
- **Make a call, "This is VK3xxx, is this frequency in use?"**
- **Listen**

23. If VK3xxx wants to call VK4yyy, how should you make the call using HF?

VK4YYY VK4YYY VK4YYY this is VK3xxx VK3xxx VK3xxx

24. What device should be used to make a test transmission without emitting radio frequency waves?

Dummy load

25. When would you use the phonetic alphabet?

The phonetic alphabet is normally used on HF when conditions are poor. It is not normally necessary on repeater

26. What are the following Q codes?

QSL - Can you acknowledge receipt?

QRM - I am being interfered with: 1 Nil, 2 Slightly, 3 Moderately, 4 Severely, 5 Extremely

