

# Amateur Radio Licence Regulations Assessment

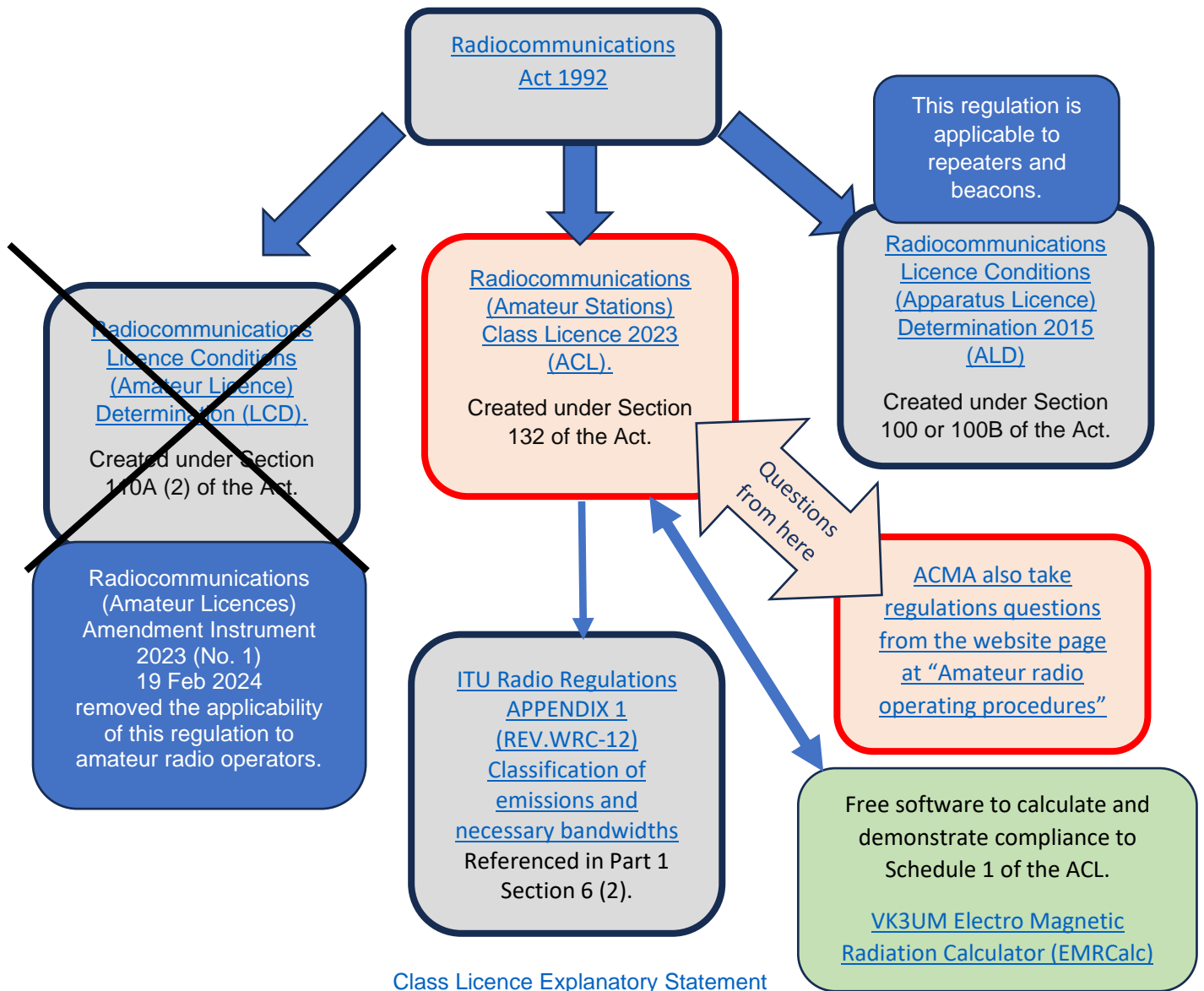
All applicants for an Australian amateur radio Standard or Advanced licence, must undertake the Regulations assessment and achieve a 70% pass mark.

The Regulations assessment does not have a syllabus and is based on the contents of the applicable Regulation as dictated in the Radiocommunications Act.

Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) manage amateur use of the radiofrequency spectrum in accordance with the Radiocommunications Act 1992, which is consistent with the applicable International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radio Regulations.

**FYI:** Acts are also known as Statutes. In the Australian Parliament, a law is made after a Bill (a proposed law) is passed by the Senate and House of Representatives. The Bill and is given Royal Assent by the Governor-General and then it is called an Act of Parliament.

Regulations (a type of delegated law) are made under the authority of an Act. They set out the administrative detail that will operate under an Act of Parliament. The regulations may be referred to as statutory rules or statutory instruments.



[Class Licence Explanatory Statement](#)

Always ensure you are referencing the "In Force" version of the Regulations.

## Regulations

- The Radiocommunications Licence Conditions (Amateur Licence) Determination (LCD) was the regulation document for amateur radio examinations prior to February 2024 when the Class licencing was introduced. This regulation is negated by amendment on 19Feb 2024.
- The Radiocommunications (Amateur Stations) Class Licence 2023 (ACL) addresses the new class licencing conditions for the three types of amateur radio class licences, Foundation, Standard and Advanced. This is the main regulation applicable to amateur radio operators.

The class licence authorises the operation of an amateur station and subject to conditions.

- Qualifications of the person.
  - Use of a call sign to enable identification.
  - Remain within permitted frequency bands.
  - Transmitter output power.
  - Electromagnetic energy requirements.
- The Radiocommunications Licence Conditions (Apparatus Licence) Determination 2015 (ALD) address the remaining two amateur radio licences in the Repeater and Beacon licence.

## Radiocommunications Act

### Unlicensed operation

Unlicensed use of radiocommunications equipment by a non-qualified person can result in imprisonment for two years and a fine. Radiocommunications Act section 46.

### Unlawful possession

Unlawful possession of radiocommunications device in his or her possession for the purpose of operating the device can result in imprisonment for two years and a fine. Radiocommunications Act section 47.

### Additional possession

If at a particular time, a person has a radiocommunications device in the person's possession and the radiocommunications device can be operated, it must be presumed that the person has the radiocommunications device in the person's possession for the purpose of operating the radiocommunications device. This can result in imprisonment for two years and a fine. Radiocommunications Act section 48.

## Emergency operation etc. of radiocommunications devices

Out of frequency or illegal communications by an operator is acceptable if, in the reasonable belief, that the operation or possession was necessary for one of the following purposes. The onus is on the operator to prove the case.

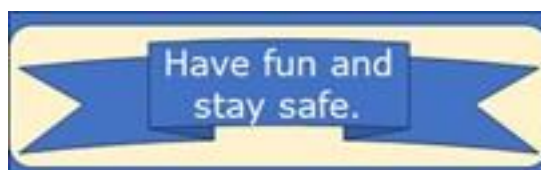
- (a) Securing the safety of a vessel, aircraft or space object that was in danger.
- (b) Dealing with an emergency involving a serious threat to the environment.
- (c) Dealing with an emergency involving risk of death of, or injury to, persons.
- (d) Dealing with an emergency involving risk of substantial loss of, or substantial damage to, property.
- (e) If a national emergency declaration is in force—dealing with the emergency to which the declaration relates.

## Radiocommunications (Amateur Stations) Class Licence 2023 (ACL). Schedule 1

Throughout the World, most Government Authorities have implemented mandatory standards of radiation limits pertaining to Electro Magnetic Radiation. These requirements include the Amateur Radio Service. Radiated power levels can be quite high and may, under certain situations, pose a radiation hazard.<sup>1</sup>

Schedule 1 of the ACL addresses the need to know and understand the electromagnetic radiation levels posed by our antennas. The basis for the testing and safety measurement is based on the standard from the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) called “Standard for Limiting Exposure to Radiofrequency Fields – 100 kHz to 300 GHz, Radiation Protection Series S-1, February 2021.

The purpose for the standard is, “This Standard specifies limits of human exposure to RF fields in the frequency range 100 kHz to 300 GHz, to prevent adverse health effects. These exposure limits are defined in terms of basic restrictions for occupational and general public exposure of all or a part of the human body. Relevant derived reference levels are also provided as a practical means of showing compliance with the basic restrictions. The exposure limits specified in this Standard are intended to be used as a basis for planning work procedures, designing protective facilities, the assessment of the efficacy of protective measures and practices, and guidance on medical assessment.”



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<sup>1</sup> VK3UM Electro Magnetic Radiation Calculator (EMRCalc)