



Proposed Revision

Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services

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1 Introduction

1.1 Relevant Legislation

The Authority is empowered by the provisions of the Telecommunications Act Chapter 47:31 of the Laws of Trinidad and Tobago (“Telecommunications Act”), namely section 36(1), to licence any radio communication service and/or radio transmitting equipment, which states:

No person shall-

- (a) establish, operate or use a radiocommunication service;*
- (b) install, operate or use any radio-transmitting equipment; or*
- (c) establish, operate or use any radiocommunication service on board any ship, aircraft, or other vessel in the territorial waters or territorial airspace of Trinidad and Tobago, other than a ship of war or a military aircraft or satellite registered in Trinidad and Tobago*

without a licence granted by the Authority

Section 27 (2) of the recommended Radio Spectrum Regulations published by the Authority in 2005, states, inter alia:

(2) An applicant for an Amateur Station Licence shall, unless exempted by the Authority –

- (a) have passed the Radio Amateur Examination set by the Authority or any other Body recognised by the Authority for this purpose; or*
- (b) be in possession of an Amateur Radio Examination Certificate or a valid licence, as determined by the Authority; or*

(c) be in possession of a University Degree in Telecommunications or Electronics from an institution recognised by the Ministry of Education and a minimum of two (2) years' experience in the operation of transmitters.

1.2 Framework Objectives

The primary objectives of this framework are to:

- provide an effective regulatory framework for the licensing of Amateur Radio Services (ARS) in Trinidad and Tobago;
- stipulate the requirements for ARS applicants to be licensed;
- ensure allocation of call-signs in an efficient, effective and transparent manner and consistent with the ITU recommendations;
- align the country's policy on ARS with international requirements, obligations and recommendations.

1.3 Review Cycle

This framework will be modified as deemed necessary by the Authority in order to adapt to the needs of the amateur radio service and to meet changing circumstances and international trends/standards. When the need for modification is identified, the Authority will announce its intention to review the document.

Questions or concerns regarding the maintenance of this document may be directed to the Authority via email at technical@tatt.org.tt.

1.4 The Consultation Process

The first version of this document was consulted upon on June 27, 2006.

The Authority is reviewing this framework in light of the following and is seeking the views of key stakeholders:

- (1) Discontinuation of Morse Code, internationally, as a criterion for classification of Amateur Radio Operators above Technician level.
- (2) Revision of the Certification Criteria for Amateur Radio Licensing

1.5 Issuance of International Amateur Radio Permits Other Relevant Documentation

The licensing of Amateur Radio Services is consistent with other policies, plans and regulations prepared by the Authority, including the following:-

- Framework for the Authorisation of Telecommunications Networks and Services and Broadcasting Services in Trinidad and Tobago
- Recommendations for Radio Spectrum Regulations
- National Frequency Allocation Table (9kHz to 1000GHz)
- Spectrum Management Framework

1.6 Definitions

“Amateur Radio Operator” or “Radio Amateur” means a person who is duly qualified and licensed to use an Amateur Station.

“Amateur Service” means 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 (ITU RR 1.56).

“Amateur Station” means a station in the Amateur Service. (ITU RR 1.96).

2 Background

Internationally, amateur radio operators have been allocated radio spectrum in various frequency bands to undertake non-commercial radiocommunications activity including experimental work. Many of the frequency allocations are on a secondary basis and may be shared with other users.

Amateur radio and Amateur satellite are fully recognized radiocommunication services defined in the Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The Amateur service is the oldest type of radio service and pre-dates regulation of radiocommunications.

The benefits of amateur radio include fostering technical radio skills that may be of subsequent value to the commercial or state sectors, as well as having a potential emergency response role.

Today, the Amateur service retains relatively narrow bands within the radio spectrum from 1.8 MHz through 250 GHz. These bands provide the whole range of radio wave propagation characteristics and, through experimentation, amateurs have greatly contributed to the understanding of propagation, high frequency single sideband radio, HF data communication systems, packet radio protocols and communication satellite design.

Amateur Radio continues to play an important and internationally recognised role in disaster communications. It has a unique ability to provide radiocommunications independent of the telephone network or other radio services particularly in the first few days before relief agencies are at the scene and have set up disaster telecommunications services.

The amateur radio and amateur satellite services include self-training as an important purpose. This includes training of young people in radiocommunications. Radio amateurs

have the opportunity of planning, designing, building, operating and maintaining a complete radio station which contributes to the telecommunications human resource of the country.

Today there are approximately three (3) million Amateur stations in operation worldwide. There are about twenty-five (25) Amateur Radio Satellites in orbit with an Amateur Radio Repeater and digital radio station in operation on board the International Space Station (ISS).

In Trinidad and Tobago there are approximately four hundred (400) Amateur Radio Operators who were previously licensed under the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance (WTO).

The Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago under this framework, is seeking to properly licence the amateur radio operators under the Telecommunications Act.

The Authority has licensed three hundred and fifty nine (359) Amateur Radio Operators, since its inception in July 2004.

3 Amateur Radio Services Regime in Trinidad and Tobago prior to the Telecommunications Act

Prior to the proclamation of the Telecommunications Act, the applicable legal instrument for the licensing of radiocommunication equipment, inclusive of Amateur Radio Operators, was the *Wireless and Telegraphy Ordinance* (WTO) of 1936.

Under the WTO, a licence was required for the use of any ‘wireless apparatus’ and as such, the licensing framework was driven by the equipment or “apparatus” used in the provision of the radiocommunication service. Amateur Radio Operators were granted an Experimental Wireless Telegraphy Transmitting licence.

The regulatory function was performed under the Ministry responsible for Telecommunications, and licences were granted by the Minister.

3.1 Procedures under the previous regime

Under the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance (WTO) **one** type of Amateur Radio Services licence was issued. This licence was called an Experimental Wireless Telegraphy Transmitting Licence and was granted to amateur radio operators in Trinidad & Tobago. It was renewable annually on the anniversary date of the licence.

The following criteria were used under the WTO for the granting licences to Amateur Radio Operators in Trinidad and Tobago:

- (1) Nationals or Residents holding City & Guilds Certificates for the Radio Amateurs Examination.
- (2) Nationals or Residents completing the Morse Code Examination at a minimum of thirteen (13) words per minute. This examination was conducted by the then Telecommunications Division under the relevant Ministry in Trinidad and Tobago.

A person successfully completing the criteria at (1) and (2) above were granted an Experimental Wireless Telegraphy Transmitting licence. These applicants were issued call-signs with the prefix '9Y4'.

In 1990 another licence was introduced under the WTO classified as an Amateur Radio Grade 2 Licence. This was issued to applicants with the City & Guilds Certificate in Radio Amateurs Examination only, that is to say, these persons only satisfied (1) above and was not required to pass a Morse Code examination. Successful applicants were issued call-signs with the prefix '9Z4'.

Additionally, persons with other suitable qualifications which satisfied the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) recommendations for the issue of Amateur Radio Operator Licences were also eligible for licences. These persons were examined individually and included telecommunication or electronic engineers with a minimum of five years' experience in the operation of transmitters.

3.2 Considerations

City & Guilds Institute of London, United Kingdom was the accepted and approved institution offering a Radio Amateur Examination and the accompanying certificate(s), which were required to qualify for an amateur licence in Trinidad and Tobago.

In 2004, the City and Guilds Institute discontinued the Radio Amateurs Examination. As a result, persons desirous of becoming amateur radio operators were no longer able to pursue the accepted and approved course of study to become amateur radio operators.

In the absence of the City and Guilds examination, the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) introduced and now administers an examination for the certification of Radio Amateurs in the United Kingdom. This is done in conjunction with OFCOM (the

regulator and competition authority for the UK communications industries) who together with the RSGB act as the certifying bodies for Radio Amateurs in the U.K.

In order to facilitate the other countries that relied on the City & Guilds examination, the RSGB also developed an international edition of their Radio Amateurs Examination with a syllabus equivalent to the former City & Guilds examination. This examination is currently conducted in Trinidad and Tobago.

In the United States there are numerous Amateur Radio Operators certifying bodies which administer Amateur Radio Examinations, such as the Amateur Relay Radio League (ARRL) and issue a certificate which is accepted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) who is responsible for issuing Amateur Radio licences and call-signs. These examinations are also conducted outside of the United States in order to facilitate Americans who live and work in other countries. These examinations are sometimes conducted in Trinidad and Tobago.

Due to the discontinuation of the City and Guilds Radio Amateurs Examination in Trinidad and Tobago, nationals and residents have sought, and taken, other examinations such as the RSGB or ARRL examinations in an attempt to become amateur radio operators.

Consequently, a number of persons holding amateur radio certificates issued from other certifying organisation such as the RSGB or ARRL have applied to the Authority seeking amateur radio licences.

Additionally, the Morse Code examination, which was required for certification above Technician Class, has been withdrawn internationally and is no longer required. Since the call sign prefix 9Y4 was issued to persons who passed the Morse Code examination in Trinidad and Tobago and 9Z4 was issued to other persons with similar qualifications who did not pass Morse Code examinations, it is now necessary to remove this anomaly. This

revision seeks to amend the certification criteria for Amateur Radio licencing in Trinidad and Tobago.

4 New Framework for Amateur Radio Services in Trinidad & Tobago

The Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT), as part of its mandate to liberalise and regulate the telecommunications sector, established a regulatory framework that is used to regulate the telecommunications industry, including Amateur Radio Services.

The document [Recommendations for Radio Spectrum Regulations](#) which forms part of this regulatory framework categorically states that only Nationals and/ or residents of Trinidad and Tobago are eligible for an Amateur Radio Station/Operator Licence from the Authority. However, Reciprocal Amateur Radio Licences will be granted to foreign nationals who satisfy the Authority's requirements specified in these regulations.. This revised draft Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services is consistent with these regulations and both documents together provide the complete set of requirements.

4.1 Types of Amateur Radio Service Licences

Based on Section 36 of the Telecommunications Act, a licence is required to **operate** a radiocommunication system and a licence is also required to **install** any radio-transmitting equipment. Given the fact that not everyone who is qualified to operate amateur radio transmitting equipment will necessarily own and/or install the equipment, two (2) mutually exclusive types of authorisations will be necessary. These two authorisations can be granted in the form of one (1) licence document to facilitate a simplified process for Amateur applications and to allow Amateur Radio Operators to be covered in their licence should they acquire a station after their licence has been granted.

Amateur Radio Services Framework Guideline

An Amateur Radio Operator/Station Licence document will be issued which will incorporate two authorisations:

- (1) The **Operator Licence** which is required by those persons operating and using amateur radio-transmitting equipment only; and*
- (2) The **Station Licence** which is required by those persons and clubs/organisations who own and install amateur radio-transmitting equipment.*

4.2 Spectrum Allocations for Amateur Radio Services

Spectrum will be allocated for Amateur Radio licences in accordance with the Trinidad and Tobago Frequency Allocation Table (TTFAT). Any changes made to the allocation of bands for Amateur Services, will be reflected in the TTFAT and the relevant bands will be included in all licences issued. Spectrum allocated for Amateur Satellite operation will also be included in the licences.

Amateur Radio Services Framework Guideline

Spectrum will be allocated for Amateur Radio Services in accordance with the Trinidad and Tobago Frequency Allocation Table (TTFAT).

4.3 International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP)

The Inter-American Convention on an International Amateur Radio Permit¹ came into force on February 23, 1996. Trinidad and Tobago has agreed to *adhesion (AD)* of this convention, on August 16, 2001, which states the following in Article 1:

- 1. While reserving its sovereignty over the use of the radio spectrum within its jurisdiction, each State Party agrees to permit temporary operation of amateur*

- stations under its authority by persons holding an IARP issued by another State Party without further examination. A State Party shall issue permits to operate in other State Parties only to its own citizens.*
2. *State Parties recognize the International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) issued under the conditions specified in this Convention*
 3. *No State Party, other than the issuing State Party, may levy fees or taxes on the IARPs.*
 4. *This Convention does not modify customs regulations concerning transportation of radio equipment across national borders.*

As a result the Authority will recognize IARPs issued by member states and abide by this convention. Amateur Radio Operators who hold a valid IARP and wish to operate their equipment during their visit to Trinidad and Tobago must notify TATT of their address and duration of stay.

4.3.1 Classes of IARP License or Permit

There are two classes of IARPs:

- Class 1 requires knowledge of the international Morse Code and carries all operating privileges on all bands.
- Class 2 does not require knowledge of international Morse Code and carries all operating privileges above 30 MHz.

Amateur Radio Services Framework Guideline

The Authority will recognise IARP holders and allow them to operate in Trinidad and Tobago on the designated Amateur bands in accordance with the Frequency Allocation Table (TTFAT), the Telecommunications Act 2001 and in accordance with the Inter-American Convention on IARP.

4.3.2 Application for IARP

Amateur Radio Operators who hold a valid licence issued by the Authority may apply for an IARP on the relevant IARP application form. IARPs will be valid for a period of one year or until the expiration of the licence, whichever comes first.

Amateur Radio Services Framework Guideline

Nationals and/or residents who hold a valid Amateur Radio licence issued by the Authority may apply for an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP).

4.4 Certification Criteria for Amateur Radio Licensing

4.4.1 Amateur Radio Certification Requirement for Licensing

Currently, there are no local certification bodies for Amateur Radio Services in Trinidad and Tobago. In order to facilitate the licensing of Amateur Radio Services, the Authority will accept certification from certain foreign institutions. Currently, the Authority accepts certification from institutions such as the RSGB, the ARRL, Laurel Amateur Radio Club and Industry Canada Amateur Radio certification. These certifications must be valid and active at the time of application to be considered by the Authority. The Authority will continue to review certification from internationally recognised institutions and will maintain a list of accepted amateur radio certifications which will be posted on the Authority's website (www.tatt.org.tt).

The Authority will accept a University Degree in Telecommunications or Electronics from an institution, recognized by the Ministry of Education, and a minimum of 2 years experience in the operation of transmitters.

Amateur Radio Services Framework Guideline

Nationals and/or residents who hold Amateur Radio certificates from foreign institutions that meet the Authority's approval and which appear on the Authority's approved list may apply for a Trinidad and Tobago Amateur Radio Licence.

4.4.2 Minimum Certification Requirement

In order for a foreign institution to be considered acceptable by TATT, it must first meet the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) minimum requirement from ITU-R M.1544. This recommendation was made during the World Radio Conference, 2003 (WRC 03) and was proposed by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) at the WRC 03 and was based on work that began since 1996.

The ITU-R M.1544 recommendation is as follows:

RECOMMENDATION ITU-R M.1544

Minimum qualifications of radio amateurs

(Question ITU-R 48/8)

(2001)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

- a) that No. 1.56 of the Radio Regulations (RR) defines the amateur service as: “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.”;
- b) that RR No. 1.57 defines the amateur-satellite service as: “A *radiocommunication service* using *space stations* on earth *satellites* for the same purposes as those of the *amateur service*.”;
- c) that certain minimum operator operational and technical qualifications are necessary for proper operation of an amateur or amateur-satellite station,

recommends

- 1** that administrations take such measures as they judge necessary to verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate an amateur station;
- 2** that any person seeking a licence to operate an amateur station should demonstrate theoretical knowledge of:
 - Radio regulations
 - international
 - domestic
 - Methods of radiocommunication
 - radiotelephony
 - radiotelegraphy
 - data and image
 - Radio system theory
 - transmitters
 - receivers
 - antennas and propagation
 - measurements
 - Radio emission safety
 - Electromagnetic compatibility
 - Avoidance and resolution of radio frequency interference.

Amateur Radio Services Framework Guideline

TATT will establish, maintain and publish on its website, a list of approved amateur certifications that meet the ITU's minimum qualifications for Amateur Radio Licences. The Authority will continue to monitor recommendations made by the ITU and the IARU in respect of the minimum certification requirements for Amateur Radio Operators, and review its own licensing requirements accordingly.

4.4.3 Local Certification Bodies

Given the fact that there are currently no local amateur radio certification bodies in Trinidad and Tobago and based on the demand and interest in this field, the Authority recognises the need for a local examination.

Amateur Radio Services Framework Guideline

The Authority supports the establishment of a local certification body and the administration of the respective examination by a recognised institution(s) for Amateur Radio certification under the aegis of the Authority.

4.5 Amateur Radio Licence Term

Amateur Radio operator licences are essentially for those persons who use amateur radios, while the station licence is tied to the equipment. Since the Authority will grant a combined Operator/Station licence, they will both have the same term. Station licences are generally granted for a term of three (3) years or any other such period as determined by the Authority.

Amateur Radio Services Framework Guideline

Save and except for reciprocal amateur radio licences, all amateur radio operator/station licences shall be valid for a period of three (3) years or any other such period as determined by the Authority.

4.6 Renewal of Amateur Radio Licences

All amateur radio licences granted by the Authority may be renewed by the Authority, provided that all requirements are met. Given that Amateurs play an integral part in disaster management and relief and in order to minimise the administrative burdens on these licensees, Amateur Radio Licences may be renewed for a period of three (3) years. This three (3) year renewal term will be monitored and may be amended by the Authority through the relevant framework.

Amateur Radio Services Framework Guideline

All Amateur Radio Licensees may apply for a renewal of their licence at least three (3) months, but no more than six (6) months, prior to its expiration. Renewals may be granted for a period of three (3) years after the first annual licence.

4.7 Reciprocal Amateur Radio Licences

4.7.1 Reciprocal Licence

Many visitors and tourists are interested in maintaining their amateur radio connectivity when in Trinidad and Tobago. The Authority recognises the importance and necessity of reciprocal Amateur Radio licences and at the same time wishes to maintain a certain minimum level of qualification for granting these licences. Therefore, Amateur Operators that meet the Authority's requirement may be granted a Reciprocal Licence.

Amateur Radio Services Framework Guideline

Non-nationals and non-residents of Trinidad and Tobago who have been granted Amateur Radio Licences from a foreign administration recognised by the Authority, may apply for a reciprocal Amateur Radio Licence.

4.7.2 Reciprocal Licence Term

Since a reciprocal licence is a temporary licence, the term of such a licence will generally be short term and based on the length of stay of the Applicant in Trinidad and Tobago with a maximum period of one (1) year.

Amateur Radio Services Framework Guideline

The term of a reciprocal amateur radio licence will generally be thirty (30) days or less. Applicants seeking a reciprocal amateur radio licence for a period in excess of thirty (30) days must show proof of the admittance period by the Immigration Division in Trinidad and Tobago. The maximum term of a reciprocal amateur radio licence shall be one (1) year. Reciprocal amateur radio licences shall not be renewed.

4.8 Class of Amateur Licences

Three classes of Amateur Licences were utilised to regulate Amateur operators in the past. Since the elimination of Morse Code as an examination element for advanced class is discontinued, the Authority has determined that only two classes would be required moving forward. The two classes of Amateur licences will be:

1. Basic Class – for applicants not suitably qualified to operate in the bands below 30Mhz;
2. Advanced Class- for applicants suitably qualified to operate in all bands;

The Authority shall convert all 9Z4 call sign licensees to 9Y4. In the event that a licensee in the 9Z4 suffix conflicts with a 9Y4 suffix, that licensee will be given the option of choosing another 9Y4 suffix or will be allowed to retain their 9Z4 call sign.

Amateur Radio Services Framework Guideline

There will be two classes of Amateur Radio licences:

- 1. Basic Class – for applicants not qualified to operate in the bands below 30Mhz;*
- 2. Advanced Class- for applicants qualified to operate in all bands;*

4.9 Club Station Licences

For organisations that operate as Amateur Radio Clubs, Club Station licences will be granted. These licences will only be granted where a manager or director of the club is a licensed Amateur Operator with at least the same Class of licence requested by the Club.

Amateur Radio Services Framework Guideline

The Authority will grant Club Station licences to relevant organisations. These licences will require that a director or manager of the club hold and be in compliance with an Amateur Radio Station/Operator licence with the same Class or higher than that applied for by the Club and who will be responsible for the organisation's compliance with all relevant amateur radio operations.

4.10 Amateur Call-Signs

4.10.1 Call Signs for Trinidad and Tobago Licences

Call signs will be issued with Amateur Radio Operator/Station licences and will consist of both a prefix and suffix. The Prefix should generally give an indication from which country a message is originating. Trinidad and Tobago currently has the prefixes “9Y” and “9Z” assigned by the ITU. Since call signs will be used to determine the class of the licence, three prefixes are required. For Amateur licences the three prefixes used will be “9Y4” or “9Z4” – for Advanced class and “9Z3” for Basic class. The suffix will be in accordance with the ITU recommendations. The Authority would facilitate where possible, a vanity call sign suffix when requested by the applicant.

Amateur Radio Services Framework Guideline

Amateur Radio Licences will have call signs with the following three prefixes:

- 1. 9Y4 or 9Z4 – for Advanced Class; and*
- 2. 9Z3 – for Basic Class.*

The suffix may be requested by the applicant but will generally be consistent with the Licensees’ initials, where possible.

4.10.2 Call signs for Reciprocal Amateur Licensees

Reciprocal call signs granted by the Authority will consist of a prefix, a “/” and the applicant’s call sign in his original licence.

Amateur Radio Services Framework Guideline

Reciprocal Amateur Radio Licences will have call signs with the following formats depending on the class of the licence:

- 1. “9Y4/ACS” or “9Z4/ACS” – Advanced or;*
- 2. “9Z3/ACS” – Basic;*

where ACS is the Alien Call Sign (i.e. the call of their original licence from the relevant country) of the licensee.

4.10.3 Special Call-Signs

Special amateur call-signs may be granted to clubs only in respect of special events when requested by authorised applicants; these will be issued for the period of the event. These call-signs will have a standard prefix of 9Y or 9Z. Special events call-signs will only be issued to clubs/organisation under the operation of an Advanced class operator. Special Events do not include a licensee's personal event.

Amateur Radio Services Framework Guideline

Special Call-Signs may be issued only to clubs by the Authority to facilitate easy identification for special events. The call sign will have a standard prefix of 9Y or 9Z and the suffix may be based on a request or an acronym representing the event.