Amateur radio
Regulatory roles and responsibilities

Fact sheet

If you're an amateur radio user, you need to know who manages various aspects of this sector.

This fact sheet sets out regulatory and administrative roles of the ACMA, the Australian Maritime College, and the International Telecommunication Union, how the ACMA engages with amateur operators and where to get more information.

The ACMA's role in amateur radio

The ACMA supports the amateur hobby through spectrum planning and radiocommunications licensing arrangements, which allow amateur access to certain frequency bands, while balancing other demands for spectrum.

We manage amateur use of the radiofrequency spectrum in accordance with the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*, consistent with the applicable ITU Radio Regulations.

We are responsible for:

> implementing relevant ITU Radio Regulations
> allocating spectrum for amateur radio
> making regulations that place technical and operational conditions on amateur stations
> issuing and renewing amateur licences.

Engaging the amateur community on regulatory changes

Consulting on regulatory changes is an important aspect of the ACMA's role, and we welcome the input of the amateur community.

Engage with us by:

> **Subscribing to our e-bulletin** at www.acma.gov.au/subscribe-our-newsletters for the latest amateur service information and notifications about consultations.

> **Making a submission** to our annual five-year spectrum outlook for general feedback not in relation to a specific consultation. This helps us allocate people and resources across our work program.

While many amateur radio clubs, societies and representative bodies coordinate submissions to consultations on behalf of their members, we consider all submissions individually, regardless of the author of the submission.

ℹ Find out more

Visit the ACMA website for information about:

> amateur apparatus licences
> qualifications for an amateur apparatus licence
> class licences for overseas amateurs visiting Australia
> amateur operating procedures.

Making an enquiry or a complaint

The ACMA does not regulate all aspects of the amateur radio hobby. Enquiries or complaints should be directed to different entities, depending on the topic:

> **rules and licensing**—contact the ACMA: **info@acma.gov.au**
> **qualifications and getting a call sign**—contact the AMC: **amc.ar@utas.edu.au**

Spectrum for amateur radio

International and domestic allocation of spectrum, including allocations for the amateur service, is set out in the ACMA's Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan.

The ACMA supports amateur use in a variety of bands, across 135 kHz, 472 kHz, 1.8 MHz, 3.5 MHz, 3.8 MHz, 7 MHz, 10 MHz, 14 MHz, 18 MHz, 21 MHz, 24 MHz, 28 MHz, 52 MHz, 144 MHz, 430 MHz, 1240 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2400 MHz, 3. 3 GHz, 3.4 GHz, 5.6 GHz, 10 GHz, 24 GHz, 47 GHz, 76 GHz 122 GHz, 134 GHz and 241 GHz.

Access to these bands can depend on your licence, location, emission mode and other factors.

Regulations applying to amateur radio

Determinations and class licences

Check these key regulations for information about:

> standard requirements applying to all amateur licensees—Radiocommunications Licence Conditions (Amateur Licence) Determination 2015 (the LCD)
> requirements (including for electro-magnetic energy (EME)) applying to all apparatus licences—Radiocommunications Licence Conditions (Apparatus Licence) Determination 2015

> using your amateur radio when visiting Australia—Radiocommunications (Overseas Amateurs Visiting Australia) Class Licence 2015
> qualifications required to operate a transmitter under an amateur licence—Radiocommunications (Qualified Operators) Determination 2016.

Individual licences may also contain extra technical and operating conditions.

ITU Radio Regulations

Aspects of amateur radio use and regulation are subject to Radio Regulations made by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

Under Article 25, administrations (the ACMA):

> must verify the operational and technical qualifications of anyone wishing to operate an amateur station
> must set the maximum power for amateur stations
> may authorise temporary operation of visiting, licensed amateurs.

Article 19 and Appendix 42 set out the requirements for the identification of amateur stations, and high-level rules for the formation of call signs.

The ACMA's regulations implement these requirements.

Top tips for amateurs

So you're aware of and comply with all applicable rules, follow these tips:

> **Use the latest LCD**—the LCD can change, so make sure you're using the most recent, in-force version.
> **Check your qualifications**—make sure you have the right qualifications for what you want to do under the LCD.
> **Know the ACMA's approach to EME**—EME regulation applies to all apparatus licensees, including amateurs.
> **Get the right licence**—if you're visiting from overseas, you can operate under the class licence for under 90 days, or apply for a 12-month reciprocal licence.

Subscribe to our *Amateur radio update* e-bulletin at **www.acma.gov.au/subscribe-our-newsletters** so you're aware of important changes.

The AMC's role in amateur radio

The ACMA has entered into an arrangement with the Australian Maritime College (AMC) at the University of Tasmania to provide amateur radio examination and call sign allocation services. As part of this arrangement, we have delegated certain ACMA functions to the AMC.

The AMC is responsible for:

> conducting amateur radio operator exams
> working with authorised amateur radio assessors who supervise exams
> issuing certificates of proficiency that certify qualifications
> managing the allocation of call signs and recommending that the ACMA allocate a nominated call sign to an amateur who has obtained a qualification
> maintaining a register of publicly available call signs.

(i) Find out more

Information about examinations, charges, call signs, tools for assessors and the amateur radio syllabus can be obtained from the AMC website.

Amateur radio clubs, societies and representative bodies

The ACMA appreciates the role that representative bodies play in assisting us to achieve our regulatory objectives.

The ACMA is not affiliated with any amateur representative body, does not confer any formal status on any representative body, and does not regulate the conduct of representative bodies.

Unless noted otherwise, the ACMA does not endorse, and does not comment on, the information published or communicated by representative bodies.

Further information

Amateur call books

The ACMA and its predecessors have previously helped production of an annual call book by the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) by using data on the Register of Radiocommunications Licences (RRL).

We have advised the WIA to commence transitioning away from use of RRL data for call books.

Use of RRL data is subject to terms and conditions, which place limitations on use of RRL data in derivative works.

Licensee information on the RRL

The ACMA is required to include certain information associated with apparatus licenses, including amateur apparatus licences, on the RRL.

This information is taken from application forms for amateur licences, which includes the licensee's postal address.

If you **don't** want to have your residential postal address published on the RRL, you can nominate to use a PO BOX instead.

Non-regulatory administrative policy

Non-regulatory administrative policy refers to the management of aspects of amateur radio that are not related directly to a statutory function, but which may be additional to functions performed by the ACMA or the AMC.

Examples of administrative policy include aspects of call sign syntax (other than the use of the AX prefix, which is prescribed in the Amateur LCD), and other aspects of the Deed between the AMC and the ACMA.

In general, the ACMA's position is that such administrative policy should be guided by the consensus view within the amateur radio community. We will seek views from the amateur community on improvements to relevant policies when required.