

Sean McQueen

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 28 November 2019 12:41 PM
To: Spectrum Licensing Policy
Subject: Re: FW: Amateur Radio Callsigns for Foundation Licenses on Digital Modes [Ref: CSC2019-35331] CRM:001316007358 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Categories: Sean

Good Afternoon Sean,

Thankyou for your reply.

To be brief and to the point - I am not happy with your response.

The issue of callsigns was understood the moment the proposal to allow Foundation license holders to use Digital Modes was proposed (2+ years ago?)

As a Foundation license holder I now have the right to use these modes.

The concept of working with the WIA and RASA has been shown to be flawed:

- RASA was created by a small number of amateur operators opposed to the WIA - they have been consistently show to be acting in a manner to disrupt or annoy the WIA
- The survey concept has clearly failed
- Several points raised by RASA could be viewed as being intended to discriminate against Foundation License holders (e.g. the 'VJ' prefix, etc.)

A 'path forward by the end of the year' is not good enough.

Unless ACMA is outlining a default position and a cut-off date for negotiations these discussions could proceed indefinitely.

Please escalate this matter to someone who can resolve this matter.

The longer this process takes, the more License holders are going to need to pay for callsign changes.

Thankyou,

[REDACTED]

On Thu, Nov 28, 2019 at 10:14 AM Spectrum Licensing Policy <SpectrumLicensingPolicy@acma.gov.au> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

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Thank you for your enquiry.

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We are currently implementing the policy that will support use of digital modes by foundation licensees, which represents a change in the way that the national call sign system works.

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There are a number of ways to facilitate a new call sign structure, and we are interested in implementing an option that is both practical and will be supported by the amateur community.

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At this time, we are working towards arriving at a path forward by end of year.

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Kind regards

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Sean McQueen

Spectrum Licensing Policy

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----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Received: Fri Nov 22 2019 19:05:28 GMT+1100 (AUS Eastern Summer Time)
To: ACMA Customer Service Centre; svc_crm_c2c_prod; System Contact
Subject: Amateur Radio Callsigns for Foundation Licenses on Digital Modes

Good Afternoon,

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Can you please direct me to the appropriate person to discuss the current situation regarding the allocation of Radio Callsigns by ACMA to Amateur License Holders.

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Recently the ACMA updated the License Condition Determination (LCD) outlining the conditions that apply to Amateur Operators holding Foundation Licences. A key change has been the granting of the right to use digital transmission modes to Foundation license holders.

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Currently there is a problem with this - while the update grants the right to use such Digital modes, the ACMA did not update the system of allocating callsigns so that Foundation License holders are able to use these modes in accordance with the LCD.

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Currently there has been a consultation process (note - I am using the term here loosely) between the ACMA, WIA and RASA. This has resulted in an outcome where a survey has been issued to a subset of the amateur radio community, and has since been cancelled without notice. I would contend that this indicates the consultation has finished, and no clear outcome has arisen.

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I want a new callsign that will allow me as a Foundation license holder to use these modes in compliance with the Telecommunications Act and associated License Condition Determination.

- The ACMA is responsible for the Telecommunications Act
- The ACMA is responsible for the License Condition Determinations
- The ACMA is responsible for the allocation of Amateur Callsigns.

I would ask that - as the process and the WIA and RASA has concluded without any useful outcome - that the ACMA takes the initiative and resolves this issue.

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I have a current Foundation License, I pay for it, and I think it is reasonable that I am allowed to operate within the limits of the Act and LCD. The WIA and RASA have had a long time to grapple with this matter (the callsign length problem was obvious the moment that digital modes were considered).

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I suggest that the ACMA has done more than enough to negotiate with the WIA and RASA.

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Please provide a path forward.

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Thank you,

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