



Radiocommunications (Aircraft and Aeronautical Mobile Stations) Class Licence 2026

The Australian Communications and Media Authority issues the following class licence under section 132 of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*.

Dated:

Member

Member/General Manager

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Name

This instrument is the *Radiocommunications (Aircraft and Aeronautical Mobile Stations) Class Licence 2026*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences at the start of the day after the day it is registered on the Federal Register of Legislation.

Note: The Federal Register of Legislation is available, free of charge, at www.legislation.gov.au.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under section 132 of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*.

4 Repeal

The *Radiocommunications (Aircraft and Aeronautical Mobile Stations) Class Licence 2016* (F2016L01294) is repealed.

5 Interpretation

(1) In this instrument:

aero club means a club formed by individuals to participate in activities relating to aircraft that are not model aircraft.

Note 1: The club does not need to be a body corporate.

Note 2: The club may deal with activities that relate to model aircraft, or other matters, but to be an aero club the club must deal with activities relating to aircraft that are not model aircraft.

Aerodrome Rescue and Fire Fighting Service (ARFFS) has the meaning given by the *Manual of Standards Part 139H – Standards Applicable to the Provision of Aerodrome Rescue and Fire Fighting Services*.

Note: The *Manual of Standards Part 139H – Standards Applicable to the Provision of Aerodrome Rescue and Fire Fighting Services* is available, free of charge, from the Federal Register of Legislation at www.legislation.gov.au.

AIP means the Aeronautical Information Publication published by Airservices Australia.

Note: The AIP is available, free of charge, from Airservices Australia's website at www.airservicesaustralia.com. For more information about the AIP, see section 14 of the *Air Services Regulations 2019*, which are available, free of charge, from the Federal Register of Legislation at www.legislation.gov.au. Airservices Australia is established by the *Air Services Act 1995*.

aeronautical mobile station means:

- (a) a mobile station (other than an aircraft station or an earth station) that operates with a transmitter output power that:
 - (i) if the station is operated at a location, and on a frequency, that is the same as the location from which, and frequency on which, another station is authorised to operate in accordance with an aeronautical licence – does not exceed 25 watts; or
 - (ii) in any other case – does not exceed 5 watts; or

- (b) a mobile station operated both:
 - (i) for a purpose mentioned in column 1 of Table 3 in Schedule 1; and
 - (ii) on a frequency in a frequency band mentioned in column 2 of Table 3 in Schedule 1, in relation to that purpose.

aircraft has the meaning given by the *Civil Aviation Act 1988*.

aircraft station:

- (a) means a station that is operated on board an aircraft for communication with:
 - (i) another aircraft station, the operation of which is authorised by this instrument; or
 - (ii) an aeronautical station; and
- (b) includes equipment of a kind that is in a survival craft of an aircraft.

air transport operation has the meaning given by the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998*.

Note: The *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998* are available, free of charge, from the Federal Register of Legislation at www.legislation.gov.au.

CASA means the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

device compliance day, for a radiocommunications device, means:

- (a) if the device was manufactured in Australia and paragraph (c) does not apply— the day it was manufactured; or
- (b) if the device was imported and paragraph (c) does not apply – the day it was imported; or
- (c) if the station was manufactured in Australia or imported, and altered or modified in a material respect in Australia after it was manufactured or imported – the day it was so altered or modified.

flight level has the meaning given by the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998*.

Note: The *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998* are available, free of charge, from the Federal Register of Legislation at www.legislation.gov.au.

ICAO means the International Civil Aviation Organization formed under Article 43 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation concluded at Chicago on 7 December 1944.

markings has the meaning given by regulation 45.015 of the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998*.

Note: The *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998* are available, free of charge, from the Federal Register of Legislation at www.legislation.gov.au.

sport aviation body has the meaning given by the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998*.

Note 1: The *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998* are available, free of charge, from the Federal Register of Legislation at www.legislation.gov.au.

Note 2: A number of other expressions used in this instrument are defined in the Act, including the following:

- (a) ACMA;
- (b) apparatus licence;
- (c) equipment;
- (d) import;
- (e) operate;
- (f) radiocommunication;
- (g) radiocommunications device.

Note 3: The definition of ‘aircraft’ is different to the definition in the Act.

Note 4: Other expressions used in this instrument may be defined in a determination, made under subsection 64(1) of the *Australian Communications and Media Authority Act 2005*, that applies to this instrument, including:

- (a) Act;
- (b) aeronautical station;
- (c) ARPANSA Standard;
- (d) communication;
- (e) earth station;
- (f) frequency band;
- (g) mobile station;
- (h) necessary bandwidth;
- (i) Radio Regulations;
- (j) single sideband;
- (k) station;
- (l) upper sideband.

Note 5: The definition of ‘aircraft station’ is different to the definition in the *Radiocommunications (Interpretation) Determination 2025*, as in force when this instrument was made.

- (2) In this instrument, unless the contrary intention appears, a reference to a part of the spectrum or frequency band includes all frequencies that are greater than but not including the lower frequency, up to and including the higher frequency.

Note: This means the lower number in the reference to the part of the spectrum or frequency band is not included in the part or band.

- (3) Unless the contrary intention appears, no condition in Part 3 limits any other condition in Part 3.

6 References to other instruments

In this instrument, unless the contrary intention appears:

- (a) a reference to any other legislative instrument is a reference to that other legislative instrument as in force from time to time; and
- (b) a reference to any other kind of instrument or writing is a reference to that other instrument or writing as in force, or existing, from time to time.

Note 1: For references to Commonwealth Acts, see section 10 of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*; and see also subsection 13(1) of the *Legislation Act 2003* for the application of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* to legislative instruments.

Note 2: All Commonwealth Acts and legislative instruments are registered on the Federal Register of Legislation.

Note 3: See section 314A of the Act.

Part 2 Class licence

7 Class licence

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) and the conditions in Part 3, this instrument authorises a person to operate:

- (a) an aircraft station; or
- (b) an aeronautical mobile station.

Note: Other requirements may apply to a person in relation to the operation of an aircraft station or an aeronautical mobile station, whether under the Act or other legislation.

Example: The *Civil Aviation Act 1988*, or instruments under that Act, may set requirements that apply to a person in relation to the operation of an aircraft station or an aeronautical mobile station.

- (2) This instrument does not authorise the operation of a radiocommunications device by a person where:

- (a) the operation of the device by the person is authorised by an apparatus licence; or
- (b) the operation of the device by the person would be authorised by an apparatus licence, but for the person operating the device in contravention of a condition of that licence.

Note: Operation of a radiocommunications device is authorised by an apparatus licence only if it is in accordance with the conditions of the licence (see subsection 97(4) of the Act).

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Part 3 Conditions

8 Compliance with particular documents

- (1) A person must not operate a radiocommunications device with a device compliance day that occurred before 18 August 2016, unless the device complies with section 6 of the *Radiocommunications (Aircraft and Aeronautical Mobile Stations) Class Licence 2006*, as in force immediately before 18 August 2016.

Note: The *Radiocommunications (Aircraft and Aeronautical Mobile Stations) Class Licence 2006* is available, free of charge, from the Federal Register of Legislation at www.legislation.gov.au.

- (2) A person must not operate a radiocommunications device unless the device complies with the requirements specified to apply to it in one of the standards specified in subsection (3).
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2), the standards are:
- (a) either:
- (i) *IEC 62287-1:2017 Maritime navigation and radiocommunications equipment and systems – Class B shipborne equipment of the Automatic Identification System (AIS) – Part 1: Carrier-sense time division multiple access (CSTDMA) techniques*, published by the International Electrotechnical Commission, other than clause 6.5.2; or
- (ii) if the International Electrotechnical Commission publishes another document to replace that standard – the other document; and
- (b) either:
- (i) *IEC 61993-2:2018 Maritime navigation and radiocommunications equipment and systems – Automatic identification systems (AIS) Part 2: Class A shipborne equipment of the automatic identification system (AIS) – Operational and performance requirements, methods of test and required test results*, published by the International Electrotechnical Commission; or
- (ii) if the International Electrotechnical Commission publishes another document to replace that standard – the other document.

Note 1: IEC 62287-1:2017 and IEC 61993-2:2018 may be obtained, for a fee, directly from the website of the International Electrotechnical Commission: webstore.iec.ch. IEC 62287-1:2017 and IEC 61993-2:2018 are also available to be viewed, on prior request, at an ACMA office, subject to licensing conditions.

Note 2: Clause 6.5.2 of IEC 62287-1:2017, which is mentioned in subparagraph (3)(a)(i), sets out the information reporting intervals that are to be used when operating ‘Class B shipborne equipment of the Automatic Identification System (AIS)’.

Note 3: If a radiocommunications device must be fitted to, or carried on, an aircraft under any instrument made under the *Civil Aviation Act 1988*, those obligations must also be met, to the extent required by that Act.

Note 4: Under Part 4.1 of the Act, a person may be prohibited from operating a radiocommunications device if the device does not comply with requirements set out in equipment rules made under section 156 of the Act.

9 Compliance with ARPANSA Standard

- (1) A person must not operate a radiocommunications device, or a group of radiocommunications devices, if:
- (a) equipment rules do not prescribe the EME standard for the device, or for 2 or more devices in the group; and

- (b) the device, or group, when operated, does not comply with the basic restrictions for general public exposure.

Note: If equipment rules prescribe the EME standard for a radiocommunications device, see section 160 of the Act.

- (2) In subsection (1):

basic restrictions means the restrictions identified as basic restrictions in the ARPANSA Standard.

Note: The ARPANSA Standard is available, free of charge, from the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency website at www.arpansa.gov.au.

EME standard has the meaning given by the:

- (a) the *Radiocommunications Equipment (General) Rules 2021*; or
- (b) if a later instrument replaces those rules and defines the term – the later instrument.

Note: The *Radiocommunications Equipment (General) Rules 2021* are available, free of charge, from the Federal Register of Legislation at www.legislation.gov.au.

10 Compliance with *Civil Aviation Act 1988*

A person must not operate a radiocommunications device if the *Civil Aviation Act 1988* prohibits the person from operating the device.

Example: If the *Civil Aviation Act 1988* has the effect of requiring a person to have a particular qualification before operating an aircraft station or aeronautical mobile station, the person must not operate the station unless the person has that qualification.

11 Identification of station

Aircraft station

- (1) A person must not operate an aircraft station unless the person transmits:
 - (a) the markings of the relevant aircraft (excluding any hyphens); or
 - (b) the registration issued for the relevant aircraft by a sport aviation body; or
 - (c) another form of identification that clearly identifies the station;during each transmission, or each series of transmissions, made by the person.

Aeronautical mobile station

- (2) A person must not operate an aeronautical mobile station unless the person clearly identifies the station during each transmission, or each series of transmissions, made by the person.

12 Communication between stations

Aircraft station

- (1) A person must not operate an aircraft station otherwise than to communicate with one or more of the following:
 - (a) an aircraft station that is operated on a frequency specified in paragraph 14(1)(c), (d) or (e);
 - (b) an aeronautical station;
 - (c) a station that is operated both:
 - (i) for a purpose specified in column 1 of a table item of Table 1 or Table 3 in Schedule 1; and

- (ii) on a frequency specified in column 2 of the table item;
- (d) a station that is both:
 - (i) specified in column 1 of a table item of Table 2 in Schedule 1; and
 - (ii) on a frequency specified in column 2 of the table item.

Aeronautical mobile station

- (2) A person must not operate an aeronautical mobile station otherwise than to communicate with one or more of the following:
 - (a) an aircraft station that is operated on a frequency specified in paragraph 14(1)(c), (d) or (e);
 - (b) an aeronautical station;
 - (c) an aeronautical mobile station that is operated on a frequency specified in paragraph 14(2)(c) or (d);
 - (d) a station that is operated both:
 - (i) for a purpose specified in column 1 of a table item of Table 1 or Table 3 in Schedule 1; and
 - (ii) operated on a frequency specified in column 2 of the table item;
 - (e) a station that is both:
 - (i) specified in column 1 of a table item of Table 2 in Schedule 1; and
 - (ii) operated on a frequency specified in column 2 of the table item.

Permitted communications

- (3) Subject to subsection (4), a person must not operate an aeronautical mobile station or an aircraft station otherwise than for a communication that relates to one or more of the following:
 - (a) the safe and expeditious conduct of a flight;
 - (b) an emergency;
 - (c) a matter that relates to the particular occupation or industry in which:
 - (i) for an aircraft station – the aircraft to which the station relates is engaged; or
 - (ii) for an aeronautical mobile station – the station is engaged.

Note: A communication made using an aircraft station must both be for a purpose mentioned in subsection (1) and relate to a matter mentioned in subsection (3). A communication made using an aeronautical mobile station must both be for a purpose mentioned in subsection (2) and relate to a matter mentioned in subsection (3).

- (4) Subsection (3) does not apply to a person employed by:
 - (a) Airservices Australia; or
 - (b) CASA.

13 Aircraft stations – operation outside Australia

- (1) A person must not operate an aircraft station outside Australia otherwise than in accordance with:
 - (a) the Radio Regulations; and
 - (b) if the station is in the territory of another country – the requirements of the country that apply to radiocommunications.

Note: The Radio Regulations are available, free of charge, from the website of the International Telecommunication Union at www.itu.int.

- (2) A person must not operate an aircraft station outside Australia on a frequency authorised by ICAO and published in:

- (a) the AIP; or
- (b) if the station is within the territory of another country – a similar document for the country;

otherwise than to communicate with:

- (c) an aeronautical station operated in another country; or
- (d) an aircraft station.

Note 1: The AIP is available, free of charge, from Airservices Australia's website at www.airservicesaustralia.com. For more information about the AIP, see section 14 of the *Air Services Regulations 2019*, which are available, free of charge, from the Federal Register of Legislation at www.legislation.gov.au.

Note 2: The Act applies outside Australia in the circumstances specified in section 16 of the Act. In particular, the Act applies outside Australia to Australian aircraft and to the members of the crew of Australian aircraft. See also sections 23 and 195 of the Act.

14 Frequencies, purposes and other requirements

Aircraft stations

- (1) A person must not operate an aircraft station otherwise than in accordance with one or more of the following:

- (a) the station is operated:
 - (i) for a purpose specified in column 1 of a table item in Table 1 of Schedule 1; and
 - (ii) using a frequency specified in column 2 of the table item as the carrier frequency; and
 - (iii) if column 3 of the table item specifies an additional limitation – in accordance with that limitation;

- (b) the station is operated on a frequency specified for use by an aircraft station in the AIP;

- (c) the station is operated for search and rescue purposes:

- (i) on one of the following frequencies:
 - (A) 2,182 kHz;
 - (B) 3,023 kHz;
 - (C) 4,125 kHz;
 - (D) 5,680 kHz;
 - (E) 121.5 MHz;
 - (F) 123.1 MHz;
 - (G) 123.2 MHz;
 - (H) 156.3 MHz;
 - (I) 156.8 MHz; or
- (ii) if the station is, or is part of, an Automatic Identification System (AIS) – on 161.975 MHz or 162.025 MHz;

- (d) if the station is, or is part of, an Automatic Identification System (AIS) – the station is operated:

- (i) for the purpose of the safe and expeditious conduct of a flight; and
- (ii) on 161.975 MHz or 162.025 MHz;

- (e) the station is:

- (i) specified in column 1 of a table item in Table 2 of Schedule 1; and

- (ii) operated on a frequency in a frequency band specified in column 2 of the table item.

Aeronautical mobile stations

- (2) A person must not operate an aeronautical mobile station otherwise than in accordance with one or more of the following:
 - (a) the station is operated:
 - (i) for a purpose specified in column 1 of a table item in Table 1 of Schedule 1; and
 - (ii) using a frequency specified in column 2 of the table item as the carrier frequency; and
 - (iii) if column 3 of the table item specifies an additional limitation – in accordance with that limitation;
 - (b) the station is operated on a frequency specified for use by an aeronautical mobile station in the AIP;
 - (c) the station is operated for search and rescue purposes on one of the following frequencies:
 - (i) 3,023 kHz;
 - (ii) 5,680 kHz;
 - (iii) 121.5 MHz;
 - (iv) 123.1 MHz;
 - (v) 123.2 MHz;
 - (d) the station is operated:
 - (i) for a purpose specified in column 1 of a table item in Table 3 of Schedule 1; and
 - (ii) on a frequency in a frequency band specified in column 2 of the table item.

Schedule 1 Purposes, stations and frequencies

(sections 5, 12 and 14)

Table 1 – Radiocommunications devices on very high frequencies

| Item | Column 1 | Column 2 | Column 3 |
|------|--|--|--|
| | Purposes | Frequency | Additional limitation |
| 1 | One or more of the following: (a) aero club operations; (b) flight training operations; (c) firefighting operations | 119.1 MHz | If used for the purposes of aero club operations, the device must not be operated for communications to or from a model aircraft |
| 2 | Parachute club operations | 119.2 MHz | |
| 3 | Helicopter operations (air to air communications) | 120.4 MHz | |
| 4 | Helicopter operations (air to ground and ground to air communications) | 120.8 MHz | |
| 5 | Aviation sport | 120.85 MHz | |
| 6 | Emergency operations (satellite location and aircraft stations) | A frequency in the frequency band 406 MHz to 406.1 MHz | |
| 7 | Emergency operations (homing for aircraft stations) | 121.5 MHz | |
| 8 | Glider or sailplane operations | (a) 122.5 MHz (b) 122.7 MHz (c) 122.9 MHz | |
| 9 | Fishing operations, or agricultural operations (including aerial mustering) | 122.8 MHz | |
| 10 | Pilot to pilot communications | 123.45 MHz | |
| 11 | Air show | 127.9 MHz | |
| 12 | Traffic information broadcasts | 128.95 MHz | Must not be operated below flight level 200 |
| 13 | Traffic information broadcasts | 126.35 MHz | Must not be operated at or above flight level 200 |
| 14 | Aircraft industry testing | 129.1 MHz | |
| 15 | Agricultural operations (including crop dusting) | 129.6 MHz | |
| 16 | Aerodrome operations | 129.9 MHz | |

Schedule 1

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|----|--|--|--|
| 17 | Aerodrome Rescue and Fire Fighting Service (ARFFS) purposes | 131 MHz | |
| 18 | Search and rescue training | (a) 121.4 MHz (b) 121.65 MHz (c) 121.775 MHz | |
| 19 | Air transport operations above 20,000 feet | 135.95 MHz | Must not be operated at or below 20,000 feet |
| 20 | Air transport operations, and any purpose not otherwise listed in this table | (a) 126.4 MHz (b) 128.9 MHz (c) 135.55 MHz | |

Table 2 – Aircraft stations on radionavigation frequencies

| Item | Column 1 | Column 2 |
|------|---|--|
| | Station | Frequency bands |
| 1 | Aeronautical Radionavigation Distance Measuring Equipment | 1024 MHz to 1151 MHz |
| 2 | Airborne Collision Avoidance System (interrogator) | 1026 MHz to 1034 MHz |
| 3 | Transponder Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast | 1087 MHz to 1093 MHz |
| 4 | Radio altimeter | 4200 MHz to 4400 MHz |
| 5 | Weather RADAR | (a) 5350 MHz to 5470 MHz (b) 9300 MHz to 9500 MHz |
| 6 | Doppler RADAR | (a) 8750 MHz to 8850 MHz (b) 13,250 MHz to 13,400 MHz |

Note: Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast is an air traffic surveillance technology that enables aircraft to be tracked. For more information, see the Airservices Australia website at www.airservicesaustralia.com.

Table 3 – Aeronautical mobile stations on radionavigation frequencies

| Item | Column 1 | Column 2 |
|------|--|----------------------|
| | Purposes | Frequency bands |
| 1 | Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast | 1087 MHz to 1093 MHz |

Note: Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast is an air traffic surveillance technology that enables aircraft to be tracked. For more information, see the Airservices Australia website at www.airservicesaustralia.com.