

Good Amateur Radio Operating Practices

Showing consideration for others

- Remember that radio contacts are not private – the amateur radio community is a public place
- Use language that is clear and will not offend
- Leave music to the broadcast stations
- Keep a copy of the band plans to hand and follow them
- Use amateur codes and abbreviations on amateur bands when they are appropriate (e.g. Two Echo Zero, QSY, 73, 5&9) and avoid codes or jargon from other radio users (e.g. CB, PMR, military, marine)



The phonetic alphabet

A	Alpha	N	November
B	Bravo	O	Oscar
C	Charlie	P	Papa
D	Delta	Q	Quebec
E	Echo	R	Romeo
F	Foxtrot	S	Sierra
G	Golf	T	Tango
H	Hotel	U	Uniform
I	India	V	Victor
J	Juliet	W	Whisky
K	Kilo	X	X-ray
L	Lima	Y	Yankee
M	Mike	Z	Zulu

- Keep overs short as you would in a conversation – new friends might want to join in or conditions might change such that your signals fade away
- If you find another station on 'your' frequency politely ask them to move, or move your QSO to a clear frequency – propagation may have changed and they may have been there all the time
- Find a clear frequency to tune up on and keep a note of your ATU settings for quick retuning next time you use the band
- Reduce power to minimum whilst tuning – it's safer for your radio and less interference to others

Calling other stations

- Listen carefully to the CQ call – is it a general call to all or a specific call to one continent or country?
- Only call if the CQ is general or for your area (e.g. 'CQ UK' or 'CQ Europe') or your callsign group (e.g. 'calls with zero only') your turn will come - be patient



- Always give your callsign in full and remember to send the other station's call first (e.g. 'Delta Six Eight Charlie from Golf Zero Alpha Bravo Charlie')
- Answer CQ calls once then listen; only call again if no other station has been identified – be patient
- If the station you are calling is not working anyone near you wait a while and try again later – be patient
- Try calling CQ on bands that sound dead – others may be waiting for a call
- Remember, there is no need for 'CQ' on a repeater just 'M6XYZ listening through GB3UB' is enough

Helping others

- Keep the hobby growing and help newcomers to get started
- Offer friendly advice to help others improve their skills
- If you can hear someone calling CQ and no one is answering, give them a call, even if it is just to let them know their signals are getting out

- Always give accurate signal reports – if you need 3 repeats, they cannot be 5&9
- Inspire others to be good operators by being one yourself
- If someone needs help (e.g. with putting up an antenna) lend a hand – you may need help next time



Being active

- Use the bands without abusing the privileges that your Licence gives you
- Join in club activities (local, national or both) – they provide an excellent opportunity to help others and to learn more about the hobby.

Learning more

- Familiarise yourself with your own radio equipment (e.g. Know how to work 'split')
- Read through the whole of your Licence – the training doesn't cover all of it but you must comply with the parts that apply to you
- Read up on topics of interest (the RSGB operating manual is a mine of information)
- Try new ways of operating (e.g. backpacking, data modes, satellites, gaining awards, taking part in contests)

- Experiment with different antennas, bands, modes – learn by doing
- If you don't know something, try to find the answer, search the web, read some books or ask for help
- Set yourself some goals (e.g. To upgrade your licence by the end of the year, to work 100 countries in a year/month/weekend, to learn Morse and get a proficiency certificate)

