

# Radiocommunications Agency consultation document: Proposed Changes to Amateur Radio licences

## 1. Introduction

This consultation document invites comments on proposed changes to Amateur Radio licences, concerning:

- a) the requirement to take a 5 wpm Morse test for access to bands below 30 MHz (see Section 2);
- b) allocations above 75 GHz (see Section 3); and
- c) Intermediate licensees' access to amateur satellites (see Section 3).

### *Why is the Agency consulting on these changes?*

The Communications Bill, currently going through Parliament, will oblige the Agency to consult on proposed changes to WT Act licences, including amateur licences. We intend to follow the spirit of that requirement pending the completion of the Bill's passage.

## 2. Amateur operation below 30 MHz – requirement for Morse code test at 5 words per minute

### *Introduction and background*

At present, radio amateurs wishing to operate in amateur bands below 30 MHz must pass a test demonstrating their Morse code abilities. Article 25.5 of the international Radio Regulations obliges all national administrations (including the Agency) to conduct such tests for access to these bands.

The future need for this obligation is on the agenda of this year's World Radio Conference (WRC-03), being held in Geneva from 9 June to 4 July. Having consulted the amateur community, the UK believes that the Morse test requirement should be removed. We consider it likely that this will be the majority view at the conference.

To speed up the process of implementing WRC-03's decisions, the Agency is now consulting on a proposal to remove the Morse requirement for access to amateur bands below 30 MHz. **Please note that, if WRC-03 does not remove the requirement for Morse code tests, the Agency cannot proceed with the proposed removal within the UK.** We are consulting now only so that the overall process may be accomplished more quickly.

We propose to merge the A and B licence classes at Full and Intermediate levels, so that the UK licences comprise Foundation, Intermediate and Full. All licensees at each level will have access to all the frequencies forming part of their respective licences.

Each licensee will keep his/her current call sign. If a licensee holds both an A and a B licence at the same level (which, if these proposals are accepted, will offer identical privileges), s/he will be asked to choose which call sign to retain by not renewing the other licence when it is next due for renewal. (The discarded licence may or may not be his/her first licence to fall for renewal.)

***Proposed changes to BR68***

Title	change to “Amateur Radio (Full) Licence Terms, Provisions and Limitations Booklet BR68”
1 <sup>st</sup> paragraph	change to “These terms, provisions and limitations shall be read as an integral part of the Amateur Radio (Full) Licence.”
Clause 2(2)	delete in entirety.
Clause 2(10)(a)	change to “authorise any club member who holds an Amateur Radio (Full) Licence to use and supervise the operation of the station on his behalf under this Licence;”
Clause 3(1)(a)	delete “and” following the semicolon at the end of the clause and replace with “or”
Clause 3(1)(b)	change to “a Full Amateur Radio Examination Pass Certificate issued by or on behalf of the Secretary of State; or”
Clause 10(4)	delete in entirety.
Schedule	delete “Those licensed under an Amateur Radio Licence (B) may not transmit on those bands between 0.1357 and 29.700 MHz.”

## Notes to the Booklet:

Note (f) delete in entirety.

***Proposed changes to BR68/I***

Title	change to “Amateur Radio (Intermediate) Licence Terms, Provisions and Limitations Booklet BR68/I”
1 <sup>st</sup> paragraph	change to “These terms, provisions and limitations shall be read as an integral part of the Amateur Radio (Intermediate) Licence.”
Clause 2(2)	delete in entirety.
Clause 3(1)(a)	change to “an Amateur Radio (Novice) Examination Certificate issued by the City & Guilds of London Institute; or”
Clause 3(1)(b)	change to “a Amateur Radio (Intermediate) Examination Pass Certificate issued by or on behalf of the Secretary of State.”
Schedule	delete “Those licensed under an Amateur Radio (Intermediate) Licence (B) may not transmit on those bands between 0.1357 and 29.700 MHz.”

## Notes to the Booklet:

Note (f) delete in entirety.

### 3. Amateur frequencies above 75 GHz/Satellite operation for Intermediate licensees

#### *Introduction and background*

The World Radio Conference 1999 made changes to amateur allocations above 75 GHz. These changes have now come into effect, and we are seeking views on how to implement them.

With the introduction of the Foundation licence, the amateur community has suggested that Intermediate licensees should have access to amateur satellites. The Agency is pleased to adopt this suggestion, the implementation of which is also covered by this consultation. We are also taking the opportunity to align the format of the Schedules to all three licences.

#### *Proposed changes to BR68*

Change the licence schedule; a draft of the new schedule is attached as Annex 1.

#### *Proposed changes to BR68/I*

Change the licence schedule; a draft of the new schedule is attached as Annex 2.

#### *Proposed changes to BR68/F*

Change the licence schedule; a draft of the new schedule is attached as Annex 3. (This is simply a change of format to mirror the format of the Intermediate and Full licence schedules, by adding a column about the allocation to the Amateur Satellite Service. No actual changes of allocation are proposed; Foundation licensees do not have an allocation to the Amateur Satellite Service.)

### 4. Responding to the consultation

Comments on any of the proposed changes should be made in writing or by email to:

Amateur Section  
Radiocommunications Agency  
Wyndham House  
189 Marsh Wall  
London  
E14 9SX

Email: [amateurcb@ra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:amateurcb@ra.gsi.gov.uk)

Please ensure that we receive your comments by **Friday 11 July**.

Please note that this consultation concerns **only** the proposed changes. The Agency regrets that consultation responses cannot be taken by telephone, but questions on the consultation can be taken by the Agency's Amateur Section on 020 7211 0160.

### The Schedule to Terms, Provisions and Limitations Booklet BR68 (Amateur Radio Licence)

1	2	3	4	5	
Frequency Bands in MHz	Status of Allocations in the United Kingdom to: The Amateur Service	The Amateur Satellite Service	Maximum Power level in Watts (dB relative to 1 W) PEP	Mode of Transmission	
0.1357-0.1378	Secondary. Available on the basis of non-interference to other services (inside or outside the United Kingdom)	(not allocated)	1 W (0 dBW) erp	Morse Telephony RTTY Data Facsimile SSTV	
1.810-1.830	Primary. Available on the basis of non-interference to other services (outside the United Kingdom)		400 W (26 dBW)		
1.830-1.850	Primary				
1.850-1.950	Available on the basis of non-interference to other services (inside or outside the United Kingdom)		32 W (15 dBW)		
1.950-2.000					
3.500-3.800	Primary. Shared with other services				
7.000-7.100	Primary	Primary			
10.100-10.150	Secondary	(not allocated)			
14.000-14.250	Primary	Primary	400 W (26 dBW)		
14.250-14.350		(not allocated)			
18.068-18.168		Primary			
21.000-21.450					Primary
24.890-24.990					
28.000-29.700					
50.00-51.00		Primary. Available on the basis of non-interference to other services outside the United Kingdom		(not allocated)	
51.00-52.00	Secondary. Available on the basis of non-interference to other services inside or outside the United Kingdom	100 W (20 dBW)			
70.00-70.50		160 W (22 dBW)			
144.0-146.0	Primary	Primary	400 W (26 dBW)		
430.0-431.0	Secondary	(not allocated)		Morse Telephony RTTY Data Facsimile SSTV FSTV	
431.0-432.0	Secondary. Not available for use within a 100 km radius of Charing Cross, London (51°30'30"N, 00°07'24"W)		40 W (16 dBW) erp		
432.0-435.0	Secondary				
435.0-438.0			Secondary		400 W (26 dBW)
438.0-440.0			(not allocated)		

1	2	3	4	5
Frequency Bands in MHz	Status of Allocations in the United Kingdom to The Amateur Service	The Amateur Satellite Service	Maximum Power level in Watts (dB relative to 1 W) PEP	Mode of Transmission
1240-1260	Secondary	(not allocated)	400 W (26 dBW)	Morse Telephony RTTY Data Facsimile SSTV FSTV
1260-1270		Secondary. Earth to space only		
1270-1325		(not allocated)		
2310-2400		(not allocated)		
2400-2450	Secondary. Users must accept interference from ISM users	Secondary. Users must accept interference from ISM users		
3400-3475	Secondary	(not allocated)		
5650-5670		Secondary. Earth to space only		
5670-5680		(not allocated)		
5755-5765	Secondary. Users must accept interference from ISM users	(not allocated)		
5820-5830		Secondary. Users must accept interference from ISM users. Space to Earth only		
5830-5850		Secondary. Users must accept interference from ISM users. Space to Earth only		
10000-10125	Secondary	(not allocated)		
10225-10450		(not allocated)		
10450-10475		Secondary		
10475-10500		(not allocated)		
24000-24050	Primary. Users must accept interference from ISM users	Primary. Users must accept interference from ISM users		
24050-24150	Secondary. May only be used with the written consent of the Secretary of State. Users must accept interference from ISM users	(not allocated)		
24150-24250	Secondary			
47000-47200	Primary	Primary		
75500-76000	Primary (1)	Primary (1)		
76000-77500	Secondary	Secondary		
77500-78000	Primary	Primary		
78000-79000	Secondary	(not allocated)		
79000-81000		Secondary		
122250-123000		Secondary		

1	2		3	4	5
Frequency Bands in MHz	Status of Allocations in the United Kingdom to		The Amateur Satellite Service	Maximum Power level in Watts (dB relative to 1 W) PEP	Mode of Transmission
	The Amateur Service				
134000-136000	Primary		Primary	400 W (26 dBW)	Morse Telephony RTTY Data Facsimile SSTV FSTV
136000-141000	Secondary		Secondary		
142000-144000	Primary (1)		Primary (1)		
241000-248000	Secondary		Secondary		
248000 -250000	Primary		Primary		

ISM = Industrial, Scientific and Medical.

(1) Until 31 December 2006.

**The Schedule to Terms, Provisions and Limitations Booklet BR68/I  
(Amateur Radio (Intermediate) Licence)**

1	2	3	4	5	
Frequency Bands in MHz	Status of Allocations in the United Kingdom to: The Amateur Service	The Amateur Satellite Service	Maximum Power level in Watts (dB relative to 1 W) PEP	Mode of Transmission	
0.1357-0.1378	Secondary. Available on the basis of non-interference to other services (inside or outside the United Kingdom)	(not allocated)	1 W (0 dBW) erp	Morse Telephony RTTY Data Facsimile SSTV	
1.810-1.830	Primary. Available on the basis of non-interference to other services (outside the United Kingdom)		50 W (17 dBW)		
1.830-1.850	Primary				
1.850-1.950	Available on the basis of non-interference to other services (inside or outside the United Kingdom)		32 W (15 dBW)		
1.950-2.000					
3.500-3.800	Primary. Shared with other services				
7.000-7.100	Primary	Primary			
10.100-10.150	Secondary	(not allocated)			
14.000-14.250	Primary	Primary	50 W (17 dBW)		
14.250-14.350		(not allocated)			
18.068-18.168		Primary			
21.000-21.450					
24.890-24.990					
28.000-29.700					
50.00-51.00	Primary. Available on the basis of non-interference to other services outside the United Kingdom	(not allocated)			
51.00-52.00	Secondary. Available on the basis of non-interference to other services inside or outside the United Kingdom				
70.00-70.50					
144.0-146.0	Primary	Primary			
430.0-431.0	Secondary	(not allocated)	40 W (16 dBW) erp	Morse Telephony RTTY Data Facsimile SSTV FSTV	
431.0-432.0	Secondary. Not available for use within a 100 km radius of Charing Cross, London (51°30'30"N, 00°07'24"W)				
432.0-435.0	Secondary		50 W (17 dBW)		
435.0-438.0			Secondary		
438.0-440.0			(not allocated)		

1	2	3	4	5
Frequency Bands in MHz	Status of Allocations in the United Kingdom to The Amateur Service	The Amateur Satellite Service	Maximum Power level in Watts (dB relative to 1 W) PEP	Mode of Transmission
1240-1260	Secondary	(not allocated)	50 W (17 dBW)	Morse Telephony RTTY Data Facsimile SSTV FSTV
1260-1270		Secondary. Earth to space only		
1270-1325		(not allocated)		
2310-2400		(not allocated)		
2400-2450	Secondary. Users must accept interference from ISM users	Secondary. Users must accept interference from ISM users		
3400-3475	Secondary	(not allocated)		
5650-5670		Secondary. Earth to space only		
5670-5680		(not allocated)		
5755-5765	Secondary. Users must accept interference from ISM users	(not allocated)		
5820-5830		Secondary. Users must accept interference from ISM users. Space to Earth only		
5830-5850		(not allocated)		
10000-10125	Secondary	(not allocated)		
10225-10450		(not allocated)		
10450-10475		Secondary		
10475-10500		(not allocated)		
24000-24050	Primary. Users must accept interference from ISM users	Primary. Users must accept interference from ISM users		
24050-24150	Secondary. May only be used with the written consent of the Secretary of State. Users must accept interference from ISM users	(not allocated)		
24150-24250	Secondary			
47000-47200	Primary	Primary		
75500-76000	Primary (1)	Primary (1)		
142000-144000	Primary (1)	Primary		
248000-250000	Primary	Primary		

ISM = Industrial, Scientific and Medical.

(1) Until 31 December 2006.



**The Schedule to Terms, Provisions and Limitations Booklet BR68/F  
(Amateur Radio (Foundation) Licence)**

1	2	3	4	5
Frequency Bands in MHz	Status of Allocations in the United Kingdom to the Amateur Service	Status of Allocations in the United Kingdom to the Amateur Satellite Service	Power	Mode of Transmission
0.1357-0.1378	Secondary. Available on the basis of non-interference to other services (inside or outside the United Kingdom)	(not allocated)	1 W (0 dBW) erp	Morse Telephony RTTY Data Facsimile SSTV
1.810-1.830	Primary. Available on the basis of non-interference to other services (outside the United Kingdom)			
1.830-1.850	Primary			
1.850-2.000	Available on the basis of non-interference to other services (inside or outside the United Kingdom)			
3.500-3.800	Primary. Shared with other services			
7.000-7.100	Primary			
10.100-10.150	Secondary			
14.000-14.250	Primary			
14.250-14.350				
18.068-18.168				
21.000-21.450				
24.890-24.990				
50.00-51.00	Primary. Available on the basis of non-interference to other services outside the United Kingdom			
51.00-52.00	Secondary. Available on the basis of non-interference to other services inside or outside the United Kingdom			
70.00-70.50				
144.0-146.0	Primary			
430.0-431.0	Secondary			
431.0-432.0	Secondary. Not available for use within a 100 km radius of Charing Cross, London (51°30'30"N, 00°07'24"W)		10 W (10 dBW) erp	
432.0-438.0	Secondary		10 W (10 dBW)	
438.0-440.0	Secondary			