

HOW TO BECOME A RADIO AMATEUR

1. GENERAL

You must obtain from the Postmaster General a licence which contains the conditions under which you may establish and use an amateur wireless station.

2. TYPES OF LICENCE

The principal form of amateur licence is the Amateur (Sound) Licence. There is also an Amateur (Television) Licence and, for those interested in mobile working, an Amateur (Sound Mobile) Licence. An applicant for an Amateur (Television) Licence must satisfy the same requirements as an applicant for an Amateur (Sound) Licence (see paragraph 4) except that he is not required to sit for the Post Office Morse Test. An applicant for an Amateur (Sound Mobile) Licence must be the holder of a current Amateur (Sound) Licence. Initial enquiries relating to any Amateur licence should be made to:-

Radio Services Department, Radio Branch,
General Post Office,
London, E.C.1.

3. LICENCE FEES

	<u>Fee on Issue</u>	<u>Renewal fee</u>
		(payable each year on or before the anniversary of the date of issue of the licence).
(i) Amateur (Sound) Licence	£2-	£2-
(ii) Amateur (Television) Licence	£2-	£2-
(iii) Amateur (Sound Mobile) Licence	£1-	£1-

4. THE CONDITIONS OF THE AMATEUR (SOUND) LICENCE are given at Appendices A and B of this pamphlet. In order to qualify for a licence, you have to satisfy the following requirements:-

- (i) be over fourteen years of age,
- (ii) be a British subject,
- (iii) have passed the Radio Amateur Examination (see paragraphs 6 and 8) and the Post Office Morse Test (see paragraphs 7 and 8)
- (iv) have paid the appropriate fee (see para. 3).

5. THE POST OFFICE AMATEUR RADIO CERTIFICATE is issued without charge to British subjects who have passed the Radio Amateur Examination (see paragraphs 6 and 8) and the Post Office Morse Test (see paragraphs 7 and 8). If the holder applies for an Amateur (Sound) Licence within one year of the date on which he passed the Post Office Morse Test, he will not be required to re-submit himself for either the Radio Amateur Examination or the Post Office Morse Test. If he applies for that licence more than one year after the date on which he passed the Post Office Morse Test, he will be required to pass the Post Office Morse Test again, but not the Radio Amateur Examination.

6. THE RADIO AMATEUR EXAMINATION, the syllabus of which is at Appendix C, covers the elementary theory of radio communication, knowledge of transmitting

techniques, and knowledge of operating procedure appropriate to an amateur. Examinations are held by:-

(i) The City and Guilds of London Institute, 76, Portland Place, London, W.1. (usually in May each year) from whom full details and specimen question papers may be obtained; and

(ii) The Post Office. This examination is held, provided that sufficient applications are received, in London, Edinburgh and Cardiff in October each year. Written application to take this examination should be made to THE RADIO SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY SECTION, GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON, E.C.1. The fee for this examination is 25/- and must accompany the application. This fee will not be returned to any candidate who withdraws from or fails to attend for examination, nor can it be transferred from one examination to another at a later date.

7. THE POST OFFICE MORSE TEST

(i) GENERAL

Success in this test remains a valid qualification for the purposes of an Amateur (Sound) Licence or Amateur Radio Certificate for a period of twelve months from the date of the test. If you are unable to gain your licence or certificate within that period, you will be required to take the Morse Test again if you still wish to have the licence or certificate. You are therefore advised to take your Morse Test only after you have passed the Radio Amateur Examination.

(ii) LOCATION OF TESTS

Post Office Morse Tests are held at:-

(a) Post Office Headquarters in London, Post Office Coast Stations and the Radio Surveyors' Offices which are listed on the attached Morse Test Application Form (Appendix D). Application should be made to the address at which you wish to take the test; arrangements will then be made to conduct the test on a date as far as possible suitable to you.

(b) The Head Post Offices in Birmingham, Cambridge, Derby, Leeds and Manchester. These tests are held, provided there are sufficient applications in January and September each year. Application forms should be sent to the RADIO SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY SECTION, GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON, E.C.1., before the 20th December for the January test, and before the 20th August for the September test.

(iii) FEE

The fee for a Post Office Morse Test is 10/-. This amount in postage stamps must accompany every application to take the Test. (See Section IV of Appendix D). The examination fee will not be returned to any candidate who withdraws from or fails to attend for examination, nor can it be transferred from one examination to another at a later date.

(iv) DETAILS OF THE TEST

In the sending tests an applicant is required to send 36 words (averaging five letters per word) in plain language in three minutes without uncorrected error, not more than four corrections being permitted. In figures, 10 five-figure groups to be sent in 1½ minutes without uncorrected error, not more than two corrections being permitted.

In the receiving tests, an applicant is required to receive 36 words (averaging five letters per word in plain language in three minutes, and 10 five-figure groups in 1½ minutes. Each letter or figure incorrectly received counts as one error. A word in which more than one letter is incorrectly received counts as two errors. More than four errors in plain language and more than two errors in the figure test will result in failure.

The foregoing particulars are summarised in the following table:-

TYPE	LENGTH OF TEST.	DURATION OF TEST	SENDING		RECEIVING
			Maximum No. of corrections	Maximum No. of uncorrected errors	Maximum No. of errors.
Plain Language	36 words (Average 5 letters per word)	3 mins.	4	0	4
Figures	10 groups	1½ mins.	2	0	2

8. There are several schools at which guided tuition may be obtained by persons who propose to sit for the Radio Amateur Examination and the Post Office Morse Test. Particulars may be obtained from the local Education Authority, The City and Guilds of London Institute or The Radio Society of Great Britain, New Ruskin House, Little Russell Street, London, W.C.1.

9. APPLICATION FOR AMATEUR LICENCES

A. AMATEUR (SOUND) LICENCE AND AMATEUR (TELEVISION) LICENCE

(i) When you have attained the required qualifications you should carefully complete the attached Licence Application Form (Appendix E), and forward it to the RADIO SERVICES DEPARTMENT, RADIO BRANCH, GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON, E.C.1. together with the documents listed in (ii) or (iii) below.

(ii) An applicant who does not already hold an Amateur Radio Certificate should forward:-

(a) His Birth Certificate, valid Passport or Certificate of Naturalisation;

(b) A pass slip for the Radio Amateur Examination;

*(c) A pass slip for a Post Office Morse Test taken during the twelve months immediately preceding the date of application.

(iii) An applicant who holds an Amateur Radio Certificate should forward:-

(a) The Amateur Radio Certificate.

*(b) If the Certificate was issued more than one year before the date of application, a pass slip of a Post Office Morse Test taken during the twelve months immediately preceding the date of application.

*Not applicable to applications for Amateur (Television) Licences.

(iv) The Licence fee should not be sent until requested.

B. AMATEUR (SOUND MOBILE) LICENCE

Applications, from holders of current Amateur (Sound) Licences only, should be sent to THE RADIO SERVICES DEPARTMENT, RADIO BRANCH, GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON, E.C.1.