Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services

(Version 2.0)

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1 Introduction

1.1 Rationale

The Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (the Authority) is mandated by the Telecommunications Act, Chap. 47:31 (the Act), in section 18(1)(i), to:

> "plan, supervise, regulate and manage the use of the radio frequency spectrum, including—
>
> *(i)* the licensing and registration of radiofrequencies and call signs to be used by all stations operating in Trinidad and Tobago or on any ship, aircraft, or other vessel or satellite registered in Trinidad and Tobago;
>
> *(ii)* the allocation, assignment and reallocation or reassignment of frequency bands where necessary".

The Authority executes this mandate through the development of authorisation frameworks and spectrum plans that prescribe rules and terms and conditions for the orderly utilisation of the radio frequency spectrum. Through this *Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services* (the Framework), the Authority aims to facilitate the operations of all stations and modes in the amateur service and amateur-satellite service (amateur radio services), in an effective manner that meets the needs of the national amateur radio community.

1.2 Purpose

This Framework sets the rules for the authorisation of operations within the amateur radio service bands in Trinidad and Tobago.

1.3 Background

Amateur service is the oldest type of radio service and predates the regulation of radiocommunications. Today, amateur service and, additionally, amateur-satellite service are radiocommunications services defined in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radio Regulations and have been allocated radio frequency spectrum in various frequency bands to undertake non-commercial radiocommunications activity, including self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations.

The amateur radio services are allocated relatively narrow bands within the radio spectrum from 135.7 kHz through 250 GHz. These bands provide the whole range of radio wave propagation characteristics and, through experimentation, amateurs have contributed greatly to the understanding of propagation, high frequency (HF) single sideband radio, HF data communications systems, packet radio protocols and communications satellite design.

Amateur radio continues to play an important and internationally recognised role in emergency communications. It has the unique ability to provide radiocommunications independent of the telephone network or other radio services, which is particularly critical in the first few days after a disaster, before relief agencie set up disaster telecommunications services.

Self-training, such as the training of young people in radiocommunications, is an important element of amateur radio services. Amateur radio operators plan, design, build, operate and maintain a complete radio station. Their expertise adds to the national human resource in telecommunications.

Notably, amateur operators can repurpose commercial equipment and build “home-brewed” equipment to operate in the amateur radio service bands. Such equipment is treated with flexibility for certification by the Authority, on a case by case basis.

There are approximately three million amateur stations in operation worldwide. There are over 40 amateur radio satellites in orbit and there is an amateur radio repeater and digital radio station in operation onboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Before the establishment of the Authority, approximately 400 local amateur radio operators were licensed under the Wireless and Telegraphy Ordinance (WTO) of 1936. To date, many WTO licensees have regularised their authorisation and were issued licences by the Authority. The amateur radio community in Trinidad and Tobago continues to be very active, with involvement in academia and emergency communications. The Authority continues to receive applications from new amateur radio operators and, through this Framework, seeks to ensure that all modes of amateur operation are effectively facilitated, to meet the needs of the national amateur radio community.

1.4 Objectives

This Framework:

i. provides an effective regulatory framework for the licensing of amateur radio services in Trinidad and Tobago.
ii. ensures that the assignment of call signs to amateur radio stations is done in an efficient, effective and transparent manner and consistent with the ITU regulations.
iii. aligns the Authority's approach to amateur radio services with international regulations and recommendations.

1.5 Relevant Legislation

The sections of the Act that inform this Framework are:

Section 18(1):-

> "Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Authority may exercise such functions and powers as are imposed on it by this Act and in particular –

(i) plan, supervise, regulate and manage the use of the radio frequency spectrum, including –

(i) the licensing and registration of radio frequencies and call signs to be used by all stations operating in Trinidad and Tobago or on any ship, aircraft, or other vessel or satellite registered in Trinidad and Tobago;

(ii) the allocation, assignment and reallocation or reassignment of frequency bands where necessary."

Section 36(1):

"Subject to subsection (2), no person shall –

(a) establish, operate or use a radio-communication service;

(b) install, operate or use any radio transmitting equipment; or

(c) establish, operate or use any radio-communication service on board any ship, aircraft, or other vessel in the territorial waters or territorial airspace of Trinidad and Tobago, other than a ship of war or a military aircraft or satellite registered in Trinidad and Tobago without a licence granted by the Authority."

1.6 Review Cycle

This Framework will be revised periodically to meet changing and unforeseen circumstances. The Authority will review the document and, if necessary, make modifications, in consultation with stakeholders, to ensure that the Framework is guided by appropriate policy guidelines and objectives.

Questions or concerns regarding the maintenance of this Framework may be directed to the Authority via email at info@tatt.org.tt.

1.7 The Consultation Process

In accordance with its *Procedures for Consultation in the Telecommunications Sector of Trinidad and Tobago* (ver. 2.0, 2010) the Authority sought the views of targeted stakeholders and the public on the rules put forward in this Framework.

It should be noted that versions 1.1 and 1.2 of this document were released for public consultation in July 2013 and August 2014, respectively. In 2015, the Framework was revised based on the comments and recommendations received from the second round of consultation, but it was not approved for publication in light of new developments within this community, such as the licensing of amateur beacons and repeaters and the implementation of the International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP).

Consequently, the Authority elected not to complete the 2013 to 2015 consultation process but to further revise the Framework based on the new developments and commence a new consultation process.

In June 2020, the new consultation process began, with the engagement of key stakeholders in the amateur community. This targeted stakeholder consultation included the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), amateur clubs, representatives from academia and emergency relief agencies. Following the consultation, the Framework was revised, based on feedback from the stakeholders. The comments and recommendations received and the Authority's corresponding decisions and suggestions were compiled in the decisions and recommendations (DoRs) matrix in Appendix I.

In October 2020, the revised Framework (version 1.2) was issued for a single round of public consultation for a period of six weeks. The DoRs matrix for the single round of public consultation is attached as Appendix II.

Modifications were made to:

i. section 1.3 to indicate that "home-brewed" and repurposed equipment are treated with flexibility with regards to certification.

ii. section 1.7 to include details of the single round of public consultation.
iii. section 3.4 to clarify that the parent or legal guardian of a minor is not required to be an amateur radio operator.

1.8 Other Relevant Documentation

Other relevant policies, plans and regulations, currently in effect, to be read along with this Framework include:

i. *Authorisation Framework for the Telecommunications and Broadcasting Sectors of Trinidad and Tobago*
ii. *Trinidad and Tobago Frequency Allocation Table (8.3 kHz – 3000 GHz)*
iii. *Recommendations for Spectrum Management Policy*

These documents can be found on the Authority's website, www.tatt.org.tt

1.9 Definitions

Amateur operator/amateur radio operator: a person issued a licence to be the control operator of an amateur station (47 C.F.R. § 97.3 2019)

Amateur service: a radiocommunications service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by amateurs, i.e., duly authorised persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest (ITU 2016)

Amateur-satellite service: a radiocommunications service using space stations on earth satellites for the same purposes as those of the amateur service (ITU 2016)

Amateur station: a station in an amateur radio service consisting of the equipment and components for carrying on radiocommunications (47 C.F.R. § 97.3 2019)

Beacon: an amateur station transmitting communication for the purposes of observation of propagation and reception or other related experimental activities (47 C.F.R. § 97.3 2019)

Repeater: an amateur station that simultaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels (47 C.F.R. § 97.3 2019)

Third-party communication: a message from the control operator (first party) of an amateur station to another amateur station control operator (second party) on behalf of another person (third party) (47 C.F.R. § 97.3 2019)

2 Amateur Radio Services Regime in Trinidad and Tobago prior to the Telecommunications Act

Before the proclamation of the Act, the applicable legal instrument for the licensing of radiocommunications equipment, inclusive of amateur radio operators, was the WTO. Under the WTO, a licence was required for the use of any wireless apparatus and, as such, the licensing framework was driven by the equipment or apparatus used in the provision of the radiocommunications service. Amateur radio operators were granted an Experimental Wireless Telegraphy Transmitting Licence. The regulatory function was performed under the Ministry responsible for telecommunications, and licences were granted by the Minister.

2.1 Procedures under the Previous Regime

As stated earlier, under the WTO, only one type of amateur radio service licence was issued, namely, the Experimental Wireless Telegraphy Transmitting Licence, which was renewable annually on the anniversary date of the licence.

The following criteria were used for the issuance of licences to amateur radio operators in Trinidad and Tobago:

(1) Nationals or residents holding City & Guilds Certificates for the Radio Amateurs' Examination

(2) Nationals or residents completing the Morse code examination at a minimum of 13 words per minute. This examination was conducted by the then Telecommunications Division under the relevant Ministry.

A person meeting these criteria was granted the Experimental Wireless Telegraphy Transmitting Licence and issued call signs with the prefix 9Y4.

In 1990, another licence was introduced under the WTO, classified as an Amateur Radio Grade 2 Licence. This was issued to nationals or residents with the City & Guilds

Certificate in Radio Amateurs' Examination only. These persons only satisfied criterion (1) above and were not required to pass the Morse code examination. Successful applicants were issued call signs with the prefix 9Z4.

Persons with other suitable qualifications that satisfied the ITU recommendations for the issuance of amateur radio operator licences were also eligible for licences. These persons were granted licence individually, they included telecommunications or electronic engineers with a minimum of five years' experience in the operation of transmitters.

3 Framework for Amateur Radio Services in Trinidad and Tobago

3.1 Types of Amateur Radio Service Licences

Two categories of licences are typically issued for amateur radio services — an operator licence and a station licence. An operator licence permits a certified individual to operate an amateur station. A station licence is issued to a person or organisation for the ownership and/or installation of an amateur station.

To simplify the authorisation process, the licence categories can be combined to create an operator/station licence, for cases where an individual operates, owns and/or installs an amateur station.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the following types of amateur radio licences are issued:

i. operator/station licence:
    a. local
    b. reciprocal

ii. station licence:
    a. club
    b. special operation
    c. emergency

Amateur radio service licences are issued for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations. Amateur stations must not be used for commercial purposes or pecuniary gain. Licensed amateur operators may use amateur stations to assist in emergencies.

Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services Rules

1. The following types of amateur radio licences are issued in Trinidad and Tobago:

i. operator/station licence:
- *a. local*
- *b. reciprocal*

ii. station licence:
- *a. club*
- *b. special operation*
- *c. emergency*

2. Amateur radio service licences are issued for the purpose of self-training in communication by radio telecommunications and technical investigations.

3. Amateur stations must not be used for commercial purposes or for pecuniary gain.

4. Licensed amateur operators may use amateur stations to assist in emergency situations.

3.1.1 Local Operator/Station Licence

Local operator/station licences are issued to nationals and permanent residents of Trinidad and Tobago. Such persons who are certified, i.e., qualified by examination to operate, own and/or install amateur stations, in accordance with section 3.7 of this Framework, are eligible to apply for a local operator/station licence.

Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services Rule

5. Local operator/station licences are issued to nationals and permanent residents of Trinidad and Tobago who are certified to own, install and/or operate stations in amateur radio service.

3.1.2 Reciprocal Operator/Station Licence

Reciprocal operator/station licences are issued to non-nationals and non-residents who are holders of a valid amateur licence from a recognised foreign administration. This licence facilitates visitors interested in operating their amateur station while in Trinidad and Tobago.

> ***Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services Rule***
>
> *6. Reciprocal operator/station licences are issued to non-nationals and non-residents who have been granted amateur radio licences from foreign administrations recognised by the Authority.*

3.1.3 Club Station Licence

Club station licences are issued to organisations whose primary activities are related to amateur radio services. Such organisations must have a trustee who is designated by the club. The trustee must be an individual who holds a valid advanced class local operator/station licence issued by the Authority and is responsible for ensuring the club station operates in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the licence and other relevant regulations. The trustee will be the point of contact for the club on all matters related to the club station.

A club must be composed of at least four members.

Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services Rules

7. *Club station licences are issued to organisations whose primary activities are related to the amateur radio services.*

8. *Clubs must designate a trustee who must be the holder of a valid advanced class operator/station licence issued by the Authority.*

9. *Clubs must have a minimum membership of four persons.*

3.1.4 Special Operation Station Licence

Special operation station licences are issued to individuals or clubs for amateur stations that require frequency coordination. Special operation stations include beacon stations and repeater stations. Such licences will only be issued to individuals or clubs that are holders of valid amateur radio licences issued by the Authority. It should be noted that frequency coordination and licensing apply to repeaters that are available for public use and not to low-powered repeaters for personal use, such as duplex hotspots.

The amateur operator, club or other entity that is licensed to operate a special operation station is responsible for ensuring the station is operated in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the licence and other relevant regulations. This includes monitoring the repeater from time to time and taking reasonable steps to minimise the risk of unsuitable content being transmitted.

Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services Rule

10. Special operation station licences are issued to individuals or clubs who are holders of a valid amateur radio licence issued by the Authority for stations in the amateur radio services that require frequency coordination.

3.1.5 Emergency Station Licence

Emergency station licences are issued to emergency relief agencies that use amateur stations as a secondary emergency communications system. Emergency relief agencies are designated by the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) and the Tobago Emergency Management Agency (TEMA). Emergency relief agencies must appoint a trustee who must be an individual who holds a valid advanced class local operator/station licence issued by the Authority. The trustee is responsible for ensuring the emergency station operates in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the licence and other relevant regulations. The trustee will be the point of contact for the organisation on all matters relating to the emergency station.

An emergency station is limited to operations solely related to emergency communications and disaster relief; however, it is bound to all other conditions of the amateur station licence. Notwithstanding this, the issuance of an amateur emergency station licence to emergency relief agencies is solely for use as a secondary system to their primary emergency communications systems.

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11. *Emergency station licences are issued to emergency relief agencies as authorisation to use amateur stations as a secondary emergency communications system.*

12. *Disaster relief agencies must appoint a trustee who must be the holder of a valid advanced class local operator/station licence issued by the Authority.*

13. *An emergency station is limited to operations solely related to emergency communications and disaster relief. It is, however, bound to all other terms and conditions of an amateur station licence.*

3.2 Classes of Amateur Radio Licences

The class of an amateur radio licence identifies the proficiency requirements and privileges authorised to the operator of an amateur station. Three classes of amateur licences are issued in Trinidad and Tobago. Table 1 lists these classes and the associated proficiency requirements and privileges that previously applied to amateur radio licences issued in Trinidad and Tobago.

Table 1. Classes of amateur radio licences previously issued in Trinidad and Tobago

Class	**Proficiency Requirements**	**Operator Privileges**
Basic	Applicants qualified to operate in the amateur radio service bands above 30 MHz	All amateur radio service bands above 30 MHz
General	Applicants qualified to operate in all amateur radio service bands	All amateur radio service bands

Advanced	Applicants qualified to operate in all amateur radio service bands and to use Morse code with a certification of at least 13 words per minute (wpm)	All amateur radio service bands

At the ITU-R World Radio Conference 2003 (WRC-03), the mandatory requirement to demonstrate Morse code proficiency was removed from Article 25 of the ITU Radio Regulations. The Authority has removed the Morse code proficiency requirement for the advanced class, as this requirement was the only distinction between the general and advanced classes. The two classes currently defined for amateur operators are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Classes of amateur radio licences currently issued in Trinidad and Tobago

Class	**Proficiency Requirements**	**Operator Privileges**
Basic	Applicants qualified to operate in the amateur radio service bands above 30 MHz	Amateur radio service bands above 30 MHz
Advanced	Applicants qualified to operate in all amateur radio service bands	All amateur radio service bands Be designated the trustee of a club or an organisation with an emergency station licence

All licences already issued with the general class will be changed to the advanced class.

In accordance with section 3.7, the Authority will assess the qualifications of applicants for both types of operator/station licences, to determine the class of licence they will be issued. Club station licences and emergency station licences will only be issued with the advanced class. Therefore, the trustees of amateur clubs and emergency stations must hold an advanced local operator/station licence.

Special operation station licences will not be identified by a class. However, the class of the amateur radio licence held by an amateur operator will be used during the processing of applications to determine if the applicant qualifies to operate the special operation station in the frequency band that was requested in the application.

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14. *Amateur radio licences are issued with the following classes in Trinidad and Tobago:*
    i. *Basic — to applicants suitably qualified to operate in the amateur radio service bands above 30 MHz only*
    ii. *Advanced — to applicants suitably qualified to operate in all the amateur radio service bands*

15. *All amateur radio licences previously issued with the general class will be upgraded to the advanced class.*

16. *Only the following types of amateur radio licences are issued with a class:*
    i. *Local operator/station licence*
    ii. *Reciprocal operator/station licence*
    iii. *Club station licence*
    iv. *Emergency station licence*

17. *Emergency and club station licences will only be issued with the advanced class. Therefore, the trustees of amateur clubs and organisations applying for emergency station licences must hold a valid advanced local operator/station licence issued by the Authority.*

3.3 Licence Terms and Renewals

Local operator/station licences, club station licences, special operation station licences and emergency station licences are issued for a renewable term of 10 years. A licensee may apply to renew his/her licence within three months of its expiration.

Reciprocal operator/station licences are non-renewable and short term. For first-time applicants, the term of the licence is limited to the length of the visitor's stay in Trinidad and Tobago, up to a maximum term of one year. For returning applicants, the term of the licence is limited to the length of the visitor's stay in Trinidad and Tobago, up to a maximum of three years or the expiration date of the licence from their home administration, whichever comes first.

Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services Rules

18. *Local operator/station licences, club station licences, special operation station licences and emergency station licences are issued for a renewable term of 10 years.*

19. *A licensee may apply for the renewal of his/her licence within three months of the expiration of their current licence.*

20. *Reciprocal operator/station licences are non-renewable and short term. The terms of such licences are as follows:*
    i. *For first-time applicants, the term is limited to the length of the visitor's stay in Trinidad and Tobago, up to a maximum of one year.*
    ii. *For returning applicants, the term is limited to the length of the visitor's stay in Trinidad and Tobago, up to a maximum of three years or the expiration date of their licence, whichever comes first.*

3.4 Minimum Age Requirement

There is no minimum age requirement for eligibility for an amateur local operator/station licence. Once an individual obtains certification in accordance with section 3.7, he/she can be issued a licence by the Authority.

However, the Authority will issue the licence to the parent or legal guardian of any minor seeking to become a licensed amateur operator. The parent or legal guardian will be responsible for ensuring that the minor, when operating the amateur station, adheres to the provisions of the Act, the licence and any other relevant regulations. There is no requirement for the parent or legal guardian of the minor to be a licensed amateur operator.

When the minor reaches the age of 18, a new licence will be issued in his/her name.

Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services Rules

21. There is no minimum age requirement for eligibility for an amateur local operator/station licence. Once an individual obtains certification in accordance with section 3.7, he/she can be issued a licence by the Authority.

22. A licence will be issued to the parent or legal guardian of any minor, on his/her behalf. When the minor reaches the age of 18, a new licence will be issued in his/her name.

23. The parent or legal guardian will be responsible for ensuring the minor, when operating the amateur station, adheres to the provisions of the Act, the licence and any other relevant regulations.

3.5 International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP)

The Inter-American Convention on an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP Convention) is an Organization of American States (OAS) treaty that permits citizens of any Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) Member States, authorised to operate in the amateur service in their country, to operate temporarily in the amateur service in any other CITEL Member States. Trinidad and Tobago, a Member State of CITEL, became a party to the IARP Convention by accession on August 16, 2001. The Authority will, therefore, adhere to the articles of the IARP Convention and any subsequent revisions or amendments to which Trinidad and Tobago is a party.

Citizens of Trinidad and Tobago who hold a local operator/station licence issued by the Authority will, therefore, benefit from the IARP Convention. The Authority will issue international amateur radio permits (IARPs) to its licensees, which will enable them to operate temporarily in the amateur service in the other Member States that are party to the IARP Convention.

The Authority will also recognise IARPs issued by other Member States in accordance with the IARP Convention. Visiting amateur radio operators who hold a valid IARP and wish to operate their equipment during their stay in Trinidad and Tobago will be permitted to do so, subject to procedures defined by the Authority.

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24. Trinidad and Tobago is party to the IARP Convention and, in accordance with the Articles of the Convention, the Authority will:

- *i. issue IARPs to its licensees who hold operator/station licences, subject to the Authority's process for the issuance of IARPs.*
- *ii. recognise IARPs issued by other Member States, by permitting visitors who hold valid IARPs to operate in Trinidad and Tobago, subject to the Authority's process for such authorisation.*

3.6 Call Signs and Identification of Stations

In accordance with Article 19 of the ITU Radio Regulations, all transmissions in the amateur service should carry identification signals. The Radio Regulations also stipulate that, because amateur stations can cause harmful interference beyond the boundaries of the territorial area in which they are located, they should be given call signs from the international series allocated to their particular administration. In accordance with Appendix 42 of the ITU Radio Regulations, Trinidad and Tobago is assigned the call sign series 9YA – 9ZZ.

Article 19 of the ITU Radio Regulations also stipulates the formation of amateur call signs, as follows:

"19.67 Amateur and experimental stations

19.68 § 30 1)

– one character (provided that it is the letter B, F, G, I, K, M, N, R or W) and a single digit (other than 0 or 1), followed by a group of not more than four characters, the last of which shall be a letter, or

– two characters and a single digit (other than 0 or 1), followed by a group of not more than four characters, the last of which shall be a letter. (WRC-03)

19.68A 1A) On special occasions, for temporary use, administrations may authorize use of call signs with more than the four characters referred to in No. **19.68**. (WRC-03)

19.69 2) However, the prohibition of the use of the digits 0 and 1 does not apply to amateur stations."

Call signs for amateur stations will, therefore, have a prefix followed by a suffix. Table 3 gives the prefixes currently allocated for the formation of call signs for amateur stations.

Table 3. Allocation of call sign prefixes to amateur stations

Prefix	**Class**	**Licence Type**
9Z3	Basic	Local operator/station and reciprocal operator/station (first-time visitor/applicant)
9Z4	Advanced	Local operator/station, reciprocal operator/station (first-time visitor/applicant) and club station
9Y4	Advanced	Local operator/station, reciprocal operator/station (first-time visitor/applicant) and club station
9Y5	Advanced	Emergency station
9Z2	-	Special operation station (beacons)
9Z6	-	Special operation station (repeaters)
9Z9	Basic	Reciprocal operator/station (return visitor/applicant)
9Y9	Advanced	Reciprocal operator/station (return visitor/applicant)

The suffix of the call sign is formed in accordance with Article 19. The Authority will facilitate, where possible, a vanity call sign suffix when requested by an applicant.

The suffix for reciprocal operator/station licences issued to first-time visitors/applicants will begin with a slash (/) followed by the call sign issued by the visitor's administration. For example, a first-time visitor with call sign KL7CC will be issued a reciprocal operator/station licence with a call sign 9Z3/KD7CC or 9Z4/KD7CC.

Current amateur licensees who are assigned 9Z4 call signs will be given the choice of converting to a 9Y4 call sign or retaining their 9Z4 call sign, as they are upgraded from general to the advanced class.

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25. All amateur stations will be assigned a call sign to be used in identification signals, in accordance with ITU Radio Regulations Article 19.

26. The following prefixes will be used to form the call signs, based on class and licence type:

- *i. 9Z3 – Basic class local operator/station and reciprocal operator/station (first-time visitor/applicant)*
- *ii. 9Z4 or 9Y4 – Advanced class local operator/station and reciprocal operator/station (first-time visitor/applicant)*
- *iii. 9Y5 – Emergency station*
- *iv. 9Z2 – Special operation systems (beacons)*
- *v. 9Z6 – Special operation systems (repeaters)*
- *vi. 9Z9 – Basic reciprocal operator/station (regular visitor/applicant)*
- *vii. 9Y9 – Advanced reciprocal operator/station (regular visitor/applicant)*

27. The suffix of a call sign shall be formed in accordance with Article 19 of the ITU Radio Regulations. The Authority will facilitate, where possible, a vanity call sign suffix when requested by an applicant.

28. The suffix for reciprocal operator/station licences issued to first-time visitors/applicants will begin with a slash (/) followed by the call signed issued by the visitor's administration.

3.6.1 Special Event Call Signs

Special event call signs are issued to amateur operators and clubs. These call signs are issued for the period of the event and will be substituted for the assigned call sign when identifying the station. Special event call signs will only be issued with a prefix of 9Z3, 9Y4 or 9Z4. Applicants may request a specific suffix.

A special event does not include a licensee's personal event.

Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services Rules

29. Special event call signs will be issued by the Authority to amateur operators or clubs to facilitate identification of their amateur station(s) for special events.

30. A special event call sign will have a standard prefix of 9Y3, 9Y4 or 9Z4 and a suffix may be requested by the applicant.

3.7 Amateur Radio Certification

3.7.1 Amateur Radio Certification Requirement for Licensing

In accordance with ITU Radio Regulations Article 25 (6), which states:

> "Administrations shall verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate an amateur station"

the Authority requires all applicants seeking to acquire operator licences to be suitably qualified, having acquired certification indicative of their qualification.

Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services Rule

31. In accordance with Article 25 (6) of the ITU Radio Regulations, the Authority requires all applicants seeking to acquire operator licences to be suitably qualified, having acquired certification indicative of their qualification.

3.7.2 Recognised Certification

There are no local certification bodies. However, the Authority recognises foreign certification bodies whose certificate holders meet the requirements of ITU-R Recommendation M.1544. There is a list of the approved certification bodies on the Authority's website, www.tatt.org.tt. The list includes institutions such as the American Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) and the Royal Society of Great Britain (RSGB). Nationals and permanent residents who are certified by recognised bodies are eligible for local operator/station licences.

Examinations for the ARRL and RSGB certificates are administered locally, under the supervision of volunteer examiners.

In addition to accepting the certification from recognised foreign bodies, the Authority will also accept a bachelor's degree in telecommunications or electronics from a tertiary institution recognised by the Ministry of Education, and a minimum of two years' experience in the operation of transmitters, as suitable qualifications to acquire an operator's licence. A basic class licence will be issued to any applicant meeting these requirements.

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32. The Authority recognises certificates from approved foreign institutions that appear on the Authority's approved list, located on its website www.tatt.org.tt.

33. The Authority also accepts a bachelor's degree in telecommunications or electronics from a tertiary institution recognised by the Ministry of Education, and a minimum of two years' experience in the operation of transmitters, as suitable qualification to acquire an operator's licence. A basic class licence will be issued to any applicant meeting these requirements.

3.7.3 Local Certification

Based on the level of interest in the amateur radio field in Trinidad and Tobago, the Authority recognises the need for a local examination. This will allow for a standardised test of proficiency for Trinidad and Tobago, enabling the Authority to more effectively define the classes of licences, based on proficiency, and the resulting privileges of an operator.

The Authority will invite proposals from approved tertiary education institutions in Trinidad and Tobago for the development and administering of such local certification examination(s).

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34. The Authority will establish locally issued certification based on an examination(s) developed and administered by recognised tertiary institutions, under the aegis of the Authority.

3.8 Emergency Communications

Globally, amateur services play a key role in providing radiocommunications during emergencies and in support of disaster relief, which the Authority recognises. To emergency agencies, amateurs are immediately available communications experts, with access to frequency-agile equipment that is not affected by the unavailability and congestion which typically afflict other communications networks during an emergency.

In adherence to Article 25 of the ITU Radio Regulations, as it pertains to amateur radio service and emergency communications, no rule of this Framework precludes a licensed amateur operator from supporting emergency communications and disaster relief. Additionally, in cases of emergencies or disaster relief:

i. international third-party communications are expressly permitted, unless specifically prohibited by a foreign administration.

ii. any foreign administration may permit its amateur stations to communicate on behalf of third parties without having to enter into special arrangements with Trinidad and Tobago.

Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services Rules

35. *No rule of this Framework precludes a licensed amateur operator from supporting emergency communications and disaster relief.*

36. *In cases of emergencies or disaster relief, amateur stations may be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties, and any foreign administration may permit its amateur stations to communicate on behalf of third parties without having to enter into special arrangements with Trinidad and Tobago.*

3.9 Spectrum Allocations and Technical Standards

3.9.1 Spectrum Allocations

All spectrum allocated to amateur radio services will be identified in the *Trinidad and Tobago Frequency Allocation Table* (TTFAT). The relevant frequency bands that can be used by an amateur operator or station will be included as a schedule in the licence document. Amateur operators can, however, operate equipment with receiving capabilities in frequency bands not allocated to amateur radio services.

Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services Rule

37. *Spectrum allocated to amateur radio services will be identified in the* Trinidad and Tobago Frequency Allocation Table *(TTFAT).*

3.9.2 Usage of Frequencies and Bandwidth

The IARU developed a band plan for ITU-R Region 2, namely, the IARU Region 2 Band Plan, that identifies the usage and bandwidths for the frequency ranges allocated to amateur radio services. This band plan shall be used as general guidance by amateur operators in Trinidad and Tobago. The Authority can, however, deviate from the IARU Region 2 Band Plan, if it is required for the effective management of the spectrum allocated to amateur radio services in Trinidad and Tobago.

Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services Rule

38. Amateur operators are to use the IARU Region 2 Band Plan as general guidance on usage of the frequency bands allocated to amateur radio services.

3.9.3 Frequency Assignments to Special Operation Stations

Special operation stations use frequencies that should be coordinated to prevent harmful interference amongst users. Where practical, the Authority will conduct frequency coordination, by assigning a frequency to special operation stations, in accordance with the IARU Region 2 Band Plan.

Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services Rule

39. Where practical, the Authority will assign frequency channels to special operation stations, based on the IARU Region 2 Band Plan.

4 Publication of Licensee Information

The Authority will publish on its website a list with information on its amateur radio licensees, i.e., the name and call sign of each licensee. For clubs and emergency relief agencies, the list will also include the name and call sign of each trustee, and for special operation stations, it will also include location and frequency information.

Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services Rule

40. The Authority shall publish on its website a list with information on its amateur radio licensees. The list shall contain the name and call sign of each licensee.

41. For clubs and emergency relief agencies, the list shall also include the name and call sign of each trustee.

42. For special operation stations, the list shall also include location and frequency information.

References

47 C.F.R. § 97.3. 2019. “Title 47: Telecommunication (Part 97 Amateur radio service).” *Electronic Code of Federal Regulations.* October. Accessed April 6, 2020. https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=66530d74ad797dc07b351e279a8a0795&mc=true&node=pt47.5.97&rgn=div5#se47.5.97_19.

ITU. 2016. “Radio Regulations (Articles).” Regulations.

Appendix I. Decisions on Recommendations (DoRs) Matrix for Targeted Stakeholder Consultation

(…Matrix is attached separately…)

Appendix II. Decisions on Recommendations (DoRs) Matrix for Single Round Public Consultation

(…Matrix is attached separately…)