



SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

MEMBER SOCIETY OF THE INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO UNION REGION 1

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National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa

15 November 2010

ICASA

Attention : Mr Manyapelo Richard Makgotlho

Draft Radio frequency Spectrum Regulation Government Gazette 925 of 2010 refers

Dear Mr Makgotlho

The South African Radio League (SARL), the National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa, serving the interests of licensed radio amateurs since 1925, requests the opportunity to make an oral representation on 1 or 2 December 2010 when the public hearing in respect of the draft Regulations takes place.

In addition the SARL submits the following written representation in respect of the draft Regulations published in Government Gazette, 925 of 2010.

A. Agreement on issues prior to the implementation of the Regulations.

When the draft Regulations is promulgated there are a number of actions required to transit from the current radio regulations to the new Radio Frequency Spectrum Regulations.

The SARL proposes the following:

1. National Body for Amateur Radio

- 1.1 That ICASA should acknowledge and reaffirm that the South African Radio League is the National Body for Amateur Radio as appointed by the Minister of Communication in 2005 (Government Gazette no 27711).

2. Conversion of Restricted Class A Licence

Proud hosts of the IARU Region 1 Conference Sun City 12 – 19 August 2011

- 2.1 That the current ZR call signs remain but the current ZR license holders are granted an automatic upgrade to the privileges of a full class A license. If, however, a ZR call sign holder wishes to change his/her call sign to a ZS, that the transition should be free of charge if it is requested within six months from the date of the promulgation of the new Regulations.

3. **Current Class B Licence holders**

- 3.1 The SARL is filing an objection to the age restriction for Class B licence holders (see appropriate section of the draft regulation).

Motivation: The ITU radio regulation motivates the amateur service as a service to promote self training. The restricted class B license affords people of all ages this opportunity and should not be subject to an age limitation or restriction.

- 3.2 The SARL proposes that current class B licence holders retain all privileges pertaining to Class B irrespective of age and irrespective of the sub-paragraphs (3) and (4) of this regulation.
- 3.3 The SARL seeks clarification that only the Radio Frequency Spectrum Regulations set out in section 29 under the heading *Amateur Communications* and *Part X – Miscellaneous* are applicable to the Amateur Service and requests that a statement as such be included in the regulations.

B. Representation on the draft RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM REGULATIONS

1. ADD REGULATION DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 The SARL proposes the following additions:

“**HAMNET**” Emergency Communications division of the South African Radio League

“SARL” The South African Radio League, the National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa as per Government Gazette No 27711.

“NATIONAL BODY FOR AMATEUR RADIO”

A Body appointed from time to time by the Minister to represent Radio Amateurs in South Africa.

Editorial correction

KHz should be kHz

2. ***ADD REGULATION (9): DURATION OF A RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM LICENCE AND RENEWAL***

2.1 Sub-paragraph (3) - It is unclear what happens after 15 years. A Radio Amateur obtains a licence after qualifying for the licence by writing an examination and should therefore not be subject to a maximum period of 15 years.

The SARL proposes that this regulation should not be applicable to an amateur station frequency spectrum licence.

2.2 The motivation for the above stance of the SARL is as follows:

2.2.1 The amateur radio operator's certificate is a qualification which has unlimited life and qualifies the owner to obtain an amateur licence. It makes no sense to have to periodically renew the licence. The licence can be allowed to expire if the holder ceases to renew it annually.

3. ***ADD REGULATION (28): ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT DEALER***

- 3.1 To allow the sale and swap of used amateur radio equipment between licensed radio amateurs, the following addition is proposed:

28(2) This regulation is not applicable to Licensed Radio Amateurs except for new radio equipment.

4. **ADD REGULATION 29: AMATEUR COMMUNICATIONS**

4.1 **The SARL proposes that:**

4.1.1 Regulation 29 - heading is changed to “**Amateur Service and Amateur Satellite Service**” in line with the ITU radio regulations.

4.1.2 Sub Regulation (2) (a) - Replace words: *an amateur HF transceiver* with **Amateur Radio equipment**.

4.1.3 Sub Regulation (2) (b) - **Amendment and deletion of words: is in possession of a HAREC issued by the National Body (South African Radio League) and recognised by the Authority.**

4.1.4 Sub Regulation (3)(a) - Replace words: *an amateur HF transceiver* with **Amateur Radio Equipment**.

4.1.5 Sub Regulation (6) - Replace word: *and* with **or**
“**or where there is a reciprocal agreement between South Africa and the other country**”.

4.1.6 Sub Regulation (8) and (9) – Delete (9) and replace (8) with: “An amateur radio station shall only be used by the holder of the amateur radio licence issued by the Authority but with his/her consent may be used by another licensed radio amateur.

4.1.7 Sub Regulation (10) - Replace word: *broadcast* with **reception**

4.1.8 Sub Regulation (11)(c) add “Hamnet”, the emergency communications division of the National Body, the

South African Radio League, is permitted to arrange national as well as international emergency communication exercises and participate in similar international activities.”

4.1.9 Sub Regulation (15) - Replace word: *Authority* with **National Body** “*The Authority may permit stations registered with the **National Body** as educational ...*”

4.1.10 Sub Regulation (16) - Add at end of sentence: **or while mobile.**

4.1.11 Sub Regulation (20) - The following is proposed as a replacement for the text:

“Except as provided for in (11)(b), an amateur radio station shall not be used by any person to transmit on a frequency other than a frequency for amateur services as referred to in the national radio frequency plan.”

4.1.12 Sub Regulation (22) – **Delete “including music transmissions, television broadcasts and spread spectrum communication”.** This is covered in sub regulations (27), (28) and (29).

4.1.13 Sub Regulation (24) – Delete this clause as it is no longer applicable.

4.1.14 Sub Regulation (26) - Add words at end of sentence, **except during emergency situations.**

4.1.15 Sub Regulation (29) – The following is proposed as a replacement for the text:

“Spread Spectrum may be used subject to the condition that interference is not caused to other users of the same frequency.”

Teleprinter working

4.1.16 Sub Regulation (31)

Sub Regulation (32)

The SARL proposes that these clauses are removed entirely as Teleprinter working is no longer relevant.

5. **Regulation(36)** - Replace Municipal by **Metro** and add: “***and any applicable legislation as well as relaxation for amateur radio towers and antenna structures as promulgated by the Department of Environmental Affairs.***”

6. **Regulation (37)** - Delete this regulation

With modern equipment this is no longer required.

Amateur radio operator certificate

7. **Regulation (38)** - add the words and/or “portable” after “***a mobile amateur radio station***”

8. **Regulation (46)(C)** - Delete this clause as from a practical point it is not viable.

9. **Regulation(47)** - New clause

“The National Body for Amateur Radio is delegated to handle the examination process on behalf of the Authority and will issue a HAREC and Class B certificate to successful candidates and submit a copy to the Authority for the issuing of the license.”

C SECTION X MISCELLANEOUS

1 40 Radio receiving apparatus with continuous tuning

- 1.1 The SARL proposes that this regulation is **deleted**. The motivation for this stance is the following:

- 1.1.1 Modern amateur radio equipment uses frequency synthesising techniques to determine the frequency of operation. This means that all equipment for all practical purposes uses continuous tuning.

2. Annexure E

(1) Amateur Radio Service

2.1 The SARL proposes the following addition:

“Class B amateur radio license for candidates under 25: Free”

The motivation for this stance is the following:

2.1.1 As the class B license is aimed at encouraging the youth to become involved in Science Engineering and Technology (SET), the R140 fee for the issue of the license and the R120 license fee are barriers to entry.

2.1.2 South Africa is in dire need of skilled technical people and the authorities should remove any obstacle that may prevent a person's entry into the exiting world of science.

The SARL looks forward to be granted a slot during the oral hearing process and the opportunity to provide any clarification on the representation as may be required.

Yours sincerely

Dennis Green
President SARL

Hans van de Groenendaal
SARL Councillor for Regulatory Affairs