

**Explanatory Notes on Licence Conditions
and Schedules to an Amateur Station Licence**

1. General

This document serves to explain the provisions of the Amateur Station Licence, with the intention to help licensed radio amateurs establish and maintain their amateur stations properly. The explanations given in this document are provided for general information only and are not intended to advise or address any specific cases. A reference to one gender in this document shall include all genders.

Amateur Service - A radiocommunication service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by amateurs, that is, by duly authorised persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.

Licence - An Amateur Station Licence issued by the Communications Authority (hereinafter referred to as “the Authority”).

Licensee - The holder of a valid Amateur Station Licence issued by the Authority.

Mobile Station - A station in the mobile service intended to be used while in motion or during halts at unspecified points.

Station - A station in the amateur service.

Undue Interference - Interference to radiocommunications which goes beyond that which is appropriate or warranted in all of the circumstances.

2. General Conditions (GC) of an Amateur Station Licence

2.1 GC 1

"The Licensee shall use only classes of emission, powers and frequency bands as authorized by the Communications Authority (hereinafter referred to as "the Authority") in Schedule 1."

2.1.1 Explanation

(A) This condition limits the Licensee to operate only in the designated frequency bands with specific classes of emission and transmission powers determined by the Authority in accordance with the Radio Regulations published by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

(B) The authorised frequency bands, classes of emission and power

limitations are listed in Schedule 1 to the Amateur Station Licence.

2.2 **GC 2(a)**

"(a) The Licensee may establish the Station, as specified by the Authority in Schedule 2-

- (i) at a fixed location on a permanent or temporary basis;***
- (ii) on a vehicle within the territory of Hong Kong;***
- (iii) on a vessel or watercraft registered or licensed in Hong Kong; or***
- (iv) as a portable station within the territory of Hong Kong."***

2.2.1 Explanation

- (A) The Licensee is permitted to establish amateur station in approved locations only. The Station may be installed at a fixed location on a permanent or temporary basis. In any case, the Licensee should obtain the Authority's approval prior to the installation. In case the installation is on a temporary basis, he should specify the intended period of installation when he submits his application. After the Station has been dismantled at the end of such period, he should inform the Authority in writing that the Station has been removed and the whereabouts of the amateur radio equipment.
- (B) The Licensee may apply to install his amateur station on a vessel or watercraft (ocean-going vessel, fishing vessel, yacht, etc.) registered or licensed in Hong Kong or on a vehicle within the territory of Hong Kong. The use of licensed portable amateur equipment within the territory of Hong Kong is also permitted.
- (C) In submitting application for installation of amateur station onboard a vessel, the applicant should provide documentary evidence that permission from both the owner and master of the vessel has been obtained for such installation. The operation of amateur radio equipment on board must not interfere with other radiocommunications services. If radio interference does occur, the amateur station should cease operation immediately until remedial action has been taken to eliminate the interference.
- (D) If a Licensee wishes to install amateur radio equipment on a vehicle, he must provide documentary evidence that he is the registered owner of the vehicle.
- (E) The licensee must ensure that his amateur apparatus is not operated by any person other than such person -
 - (i) who holds a valid ATO / amateur station licence issued by the Authority and is authorised by the licensee to operate the apparatus; or
 - (ii) who is operating the apparatus at the presence of and the direct supervision of the Licensee.

2.3 **GC 2(b)**

"(b) The Licensee shall not establish the Station aboard an aircraft or other airborne vehicle."

2.3.1 Explanation

The establishment of an amateur station on an aircraft or other airborne vehicle is not permitted.

2.4 GC 2(c)

"(c) The Licensee shall not change the location of the Station as specified in Schedule 2 without the prior consent of the Authority."

2.4.1 Explanation

The location of the Station is shown in Schedule 2 to the Licence. Prior approval from the Authority should be obtained for any change of location of the Station.

2.5 GC 2(d)

"(d) The Licensee shall notify the Authority in writing, in such form as the Authority may specify, of any change in the particulars set forth in Schedule 1 and Notes to the Schedule 1 within 72 hours of such change."

2.5.1 Explanation

The Licensee must report to the Authority in writing in a format specified by the Authority on any change of Station particulars within 72 hours of such change. The particulars to be reported as specified in the Notes to the Schedule 1 including-

- (A) the make, model and serial number of each station equipment; and
- (B) the number of portable apparatus possessed by the Licensee.

2.6 GC 2(e)

"(e) The Licensee shall establish the Station subject to restrictions as stipulated by the Authority in Schedule 1 and Notes to the Schedule 1."

2.6.1 Explanation

At all times the Licensee shall observe the restrictions or limitations specified in Schedule 1 to his Licence and the Notes to the Schedule 1 such as frequency bands, classes of emission and maximum power.

2.7 GC 3

"(a) Mobile operation shall not be conducted within the jurisdiction of a state"

or territory outside Hong Kong except with the permission of the administration of such state or territory.

(b) When a vessel or watercraft is in international waters, the Licensee shall use only those frequency bands which, in accordance with the "Telecommunication Convention", have been allocated to the amateur service in the region being visited."

2.71 Explanation

- (A) When a vehicle, vessel or watercraft installed with licensed amateur station is in the territory of a foreign country, the operation of the Station is subject to the rules and regulations of the country in which the Licensee is visiting. Permission should first be obtained from the country concerned for the operation of his amateur station.
- (B) The Licensee should comply with the rules and regulations that are prevailing in that country or territory.
- (C) The Licensee is advised to take special care in the choice of frequency bands when the vessel or watercraft is in international waters as he should only use those bands which have been allocated to amateur service in that Radio Region (see Article 5 of the Radio Regulations). The Licensee should also observe the regulations adhered to that region and take special care not to cause any interference to other services that may have been allocated for use in the same frequency bands.

2.8 GC 4

"The Licensee shall ensure that only persons authorized by him operate the Station. The Licensee shall ensure that persons operating the Station shall observe the terms, provisions and limitations of this licence at all times."

2.8.1 Explanation

- (A) Apart from the Licensee himself, no person is permitted to operate the amateur station unless he is authorised by the Licensee. Under such condition, unless the person holds a valid ATO or an Amateur Station Licence, he may only operate the Station at the presence of and under the direct supervision of the Licensee.
- (B) When the amateur station is operated by persons other than the Licensee himself, the Licensee must ensure that these persons observe the terms, provisions and limitations of the Licence.

2.9 GC 5

*" This licence does not authorize the use of the Station -
(a) for business, advertisement or propaganda purposes; or
(b) for the transmission of news or messages of, or on behalf of, or for the benefit or information of, any organization or any person other than the*

Licensee and the person with whom he is in communication unless the prior consent of the Authority in writing has been obtained. "

2.9.1 Explanation

- (A) It is strictly forbidden for the Licensee to transmit any message relating to business matters, commercial correspondence, advertisements of any kind or propaganda.
- (B) In addition to the above, the Licensee is not permitted to transmit messages regarding news, or information on behalf of any organisation or any person unless the Licensee has obtained a prior approval in writing from the Authority.

2.10 GC 6

"Notwithstanding General Condition 5(b), the Licensee may use the Station for transmitting communications on behalf of third parties in case of emergencies or disaster relief. "

2.10.1 Explanation

In the event of a natural disaster, the licensee may use the Station for communications on behalf of third parties. The communications so established should only convey messages in relation to the natural disaster.

2.11 GC 7

- "(a) Except with the prior consent in writing of the Authority, the Licensee shall not send messages (other than initial calls) for general reception by licensed amateurs, but shall send messages to-***
- (i) individual licensed amateurs; or***
 - (ii) groups of licensed amateurs as long as communication is first established separately with at least one licensed amateur in any such group.***
- (b) In the case of communication with stations outside Hong Kong, the Licensee shall send the messages in plain language and shall be limited to messages of a technical nature relating to tests, and to remarks of a personal character.***
- (c) The Licensee shall not transmit such material as music, public broadcasts or speeches."***

2.11.1 Explanation

- (A) With the exception of the initial CQ call, the message send from an amateur station shall be addressed to an individual licensed amateur or to groups of licensed amateurs. In the latter case, communication should first be established separately with at least one licensed amateur in the group.
- (B) When communicating with an amateur station outside Hong Kong, the

messages must be in plain languages, and the contents are restricted to information of technical nature relating to tests, and to remarks of a personal character.

(C) The transmissions of music, speeches or public broadcasts are not permitted.

2.12 GC 8

"No message which is offensive, obscene or indecent shall be transmitted from the Station."

2.12.1 Explanation

No dirty words, offensive and indecent languages are allowed to be transmitted.

2.13 GC 9

"If any message, the receipt of which is not authorized by this licence is received, neither the Licensee nor any person using the Station shall make known the contents of any such message, its origin or destination, its existence or the fact of its receipt to any person except a duly authorized officer of the Authority or a competent legal tribunal, and shall not retain any copy or make any use any copy or make any use of any such message, or allow it to be reproduced in writing, copied or made use of."

2.13.1 Explanation

If a message not addressed to the Licensee is unintentionally received by the Licensee or any person using the Station, he or the person using the Station must not disclose the content of the message, its origin or destination, or even its existence to any body other than to a duly authorised officer of the Authority or a competent legal tribunal. Also, he or the person using the Station should destroy any copy of such message.

2.14 GC 10

"(a) A satisfactory method of frequency stabilization shall be employed in the transmitting apparatus.

(b) Equipment for frequency and power measurement shall be provided capable of verifying that the transmitting apparatus is operating with emissions within the authorized frequency bands and power limits."

2.14.1 Explanation

Drifting of transmission frequency is certainly not desirable as this will cause interference to other radiocommunications services. To prevent this, frequency stabilisation, such as using high stability crystal oscillator, should be employed in the transmitting apparatus of an amateur station. It is advisable that an amateur station should equip with frequency and power measuring equipment

(e.g. wattmeter, frequency counter, signal generator and multi-meter) and simple tools for calibrating and monitoring.

2.15 GC 11

"(a) The apparatus comprised in the Station shall be so designed, constructed, maintained and used that the use of the Station does not cause any undue interference to other amateur stations or any other duly licensed or authorized radiocommunications.

(b) At all times, every precaution shall be taken to avoid over-modulation, and to keep the radiated energy within the narrowest possible frequency bands having regard to the class of emission in use. In particular, the radiation of harmonics and other spurious emissions shall be suppressed to such a level that they cause no interference to any radiocommunications. Tests shall be carried out from time to time to ensure that the requirements of this paragraph are met."

2.15.1 Explanation

It is necessary that all radio equipment used in the amateur station must be so designed, operated and monitored that they will not generate undue interference to any other radiocommunications services.

2.16 GC 12

"An aerial shall be installed and maintained to good engineering standard so as not to pose unacceptable risks to persons or property in the vicinity."

2.16.1 Explanation

The aerials of an amateur station must be installed rigidly and maintained properly so as not to cause any risk to life, or to property.

2.17 GC 13

"A record of operation of the Station shall be kept in the format and manner stipulated by the Authority in Notes to the Schedule 1."

2.17.1 Explanation

As specified in paragraph 6 of Notes to the Schedule 1, a record or log should be maintained and kept in an amateur station. It is preferable that the log should be kept in a book instead of loose sheets and there should not be any gaps between entries. The entries in the log should be the operation of the Station in chronological order and should include the time (in UTC) of open and close of the Station, frequency bands, classes of emission and power (in dBW) used, call signs of the amateur stations with whom contacts have been made, and any test or maintenance work carried out. The log should be kept for a period of at least 6 months from the date of the last entry.

2.18 GC 14

"When the Station is operated, the call sign assigned under this licence shall be used in accordance with the procedure stipulated by the Authority in Notes to the Schedule 1."

2.18.1 Explanation

See paragraph 5 of Notes to the Schedule 1.

2.19 GC 15

"The Station, this licence and record of operation shall be available for inspection at all reasonable times by duly authorized officers of the Authority."

2.19.1 Explanation

The Authority may need, from time to time, to inspect the Station, the Licence and the record of operation to see that the licence conditions are complied with. It is the Licensee's obligation to make these available for inspection when required. Authorised officers conducting the inspection will carry proper personal identification document issued by the Authority.

2.20 GC 16(a)

"(a) This licence, or its duplicate issued by the Authority, shall be available for inspection upon the request by duly authorized officers of the Authority at each fixed location, vessel or watercraft where the Station is installed."

2.20.1 Explanation

Each station location, that is, each fixed location on land or each station on board a vessel or watercraft, must be covered by a Licence or a duplicate Licence. A photocopy of the original Licence cannot be accepted as meeting the requirement of this licensing condition. To enforce the law, the Authority or other law enforcement units such as the Hong Kong Police Force may, without prior notice, demand the production of the Licence at station locations. The Licensee should give every effort to cooperate with the law enforcement officers when such inspections are conducted.

2.21 GC 16(b)

"(b) The Licensee shall-
(i) display on the windscreen of a vehicle in which the Station is installed; or
(ii) affix on a portable apparatus, such disc or document issued by the Authority showing the fact that the Station is licensed."

2.21.1 Explanation

- (A) For licensed amateur apparatus on a vehicle or for licensed portable apparatus, the Authority will issue identification disc showing that the apparatus concerned is duly licensed. The disc should be affixed:
 - (i) on the windscreen of a vehicle in which the Station is installed; or
 - (ii) on the exterior of a portable apparatus.
- (B) The Licensee should ensure that the disc is firmly affixed and is protected from wear and tear as far as possible. In case it is damaged or worn to such an extent that it is unreadable, the Licensee should, in his own interest, apply for replacement disc.

2.22 GC 17

"The Station shall be closed down on the demand of a person acting under the authority of the Authority when undue interference is being caused to other duly licensed or authorized radiocommunications."

2.22.1 Explanation

If an amateur station is found causing radio interference to other authorised services to such an extent that the normal operation of the latter is seriously affected, the Authority has the right to demand the close down of the Station until the interference is eliminated to the satisfaction of the Authority.

2.23 GC 18

"In this licence-

"messages about matters of a personal nature" does not include messages about business affairs;

"messages" and "signals" include telephony, visual communication, digital communication and telegraphy;

"the Telecommunication Convention" means any Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union and the Radio Regulations which complement thereto, which for the time being applies to Hong Kong."

2.23.1 Explanation

- (A) "Messages about matters of a personal nature" are message about personal matters confined solely to the individuals involved in the communication. Matters on business or commercial activities, e.g. advertisement, are not permitted.
- (B) "Messages" and "signals" include voice, image, data, and telegraph.
- (C) "The Telecommunication Convention" does not mean the Constitution

and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union only but includes the Radio Regulations which complement to it.

2.24 GC19

"The Licensee and all persons operating any stations which the Licensee is authorized by this licence to establish and use shall observe and comply with the relevant provisions of the "Telecommunication Convention"."

2.24.1 Explanation

In addition to complying with the licence conditions, the Licensee and anybody authorised to operate licensed Stations must also observe and comply with the relevant regulations specified in the "Telecommunication Convention".

2.25 GC 20

- " (a) This licence shall be valid for such period as determined and published by the Authority to be applicable to Amateur Station Licence at the time of the issue of this licence.***
- (b) The Licensee shall pay the fees applicable to Amateur Station Licence as may from time to time be determined and published by the Authority.***
- (c) The Authority may at any time after the date of issue revoke this Licence or vary the terms, provisions or limitations thereof by a notice in writing served on the Licensee. Any notice given under this clause may take effect forthwith or on such subsequent date as may be specified in the notice."***

2.25.1 Explanation

The Licence is valid for such a period as determined and published by the Authority and is renewable on expiry. If it is not renewed on or before the renewable date, it becomes invalid. The renewal fee will be varied as may from time to time be determined and published by the Authority. Even though a Licence has been issued, the Authority, where necessary, may revoke the Licence or vary the terms, provision or limitations at any time by serving a written notice to the Licensee. Such revocation or variation will either take effect immediately or on such a date as specified in the notice.

2.26 GC 21

"This licence is not transferable."

2.26.1 Explanation

The Licence is issued to a particular person or club whose name is printed on the front page of the Licence. Under no circumstances should the Licence be transferred to another person or club.

2.27 GC 22

"This licence or its duplicate issued by the Authority or any disc or document issued by the Authority showing the fact that the Station is licensed shall be returned to the Authority when this licence has expired or been revoked."

2.27.1 Explanation

The Licence, its duplicate, and any disc or identification document issued remain the property of the Authority. They should be returned to the Authority when the Licence has expired, revoked or replaced.

2.28 GC 23

"Any licence, however described, which has previously been granted to the Licensee in respect of the Station is hereby revoked."

2.28.1 Explanation

On the issue of a Licence, any licence(s) previously granted in respect of the same amateur station is automatically revoked. In other words, an amateur station cannot be covered by more than one licence. The revoked licence should be returned to the Authority in accordance with GC 22. Addition of a new station may result in issue of a duplicate licence. In this connection, the associated original licence or its duplicates will not be automatically revoked upon the issue of a new duplicate licence.

2.29 GC 24

"The Authority may publish the Licensee's name and address at its discretion unless the Licensee specifically asks that this should not be done."

2.29.1 Explanation

The Authority has the right to publish the name and address of radio amateur a licensee without the need to seek prior consent of the latter. If a Licensee does not wish his name and/or address to be published, he is advised to inform the Authority in writing within one month from date of issue of the Licence for the Authority's consideration.

2.30 GC 25

"This licence does not authorize the Licensee to do any act which is an infringement of any copyright which may exist in the matter sent or received."

2.30.1 Explanation

The issue of this Licence to the Licensee does not exempt the latter from doing anything which may infringe any copyright.

2.31 GC 26(a)

"The Licensee-

- (a) shall give notice, as soon as practicable, in writing to the Authority of any change of his address for correspondence; and*
- (b) shall return this licence and the Schedules to the Authority for amendment when any of the changes mentioned in paragraph (a) or General Condition 2(c) have been effected."*

2.31.1 Explanation

- (A) When the Licensee wishes to change his postal address, he should inform the Authority in writing as soon as possible. It is preferable that the Authority be notified in advance of such change. Failing to do so may result that important notices or correspondences cannot reach the Licensee in good time. In case the Licensee wishes to change the location of his amateur station(s), prior approval from the Authority is necessary.
- (B) When the changes in (A) have been effected, the Licensee should return the Licence, and/or any duplicate licence, and Schedule 2 to the Licence to the Authority for amendment.

3. Special Conditions (SC) of an Amateur Station Licence

It will be noticed that there are two versions of Special Condition 1 printed in an Amateur Station Licence. The first version is provided for Amateur Station Licence for an individual, while the second version is for Amateur Station Licence for clubs (including repeater stations). When issuing the Licence, the Authority will delete either the first or the second version as appropriate.

3.1 Version 1 of SC 1 (for individuals)

- "(a) Save as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), the Station shall be operated only by the Licensee, or in the presence of and under the direct supervision of the Licensee.*
- (b) The Station may also be operated by a person authorized by the Licensee in that behalf and possessing the written permission of the Authority to fill the position of operator of an amateur station for radiocommunications."*

3.1.1 Explanation

- (A) In the presence of and under the direct supervision of the Licensee, any person may operate the Licensee's amateur station.
- (B) With the permission of the Licensee, any person possessing a valid

Amateur Station Licence and/or ATO may operate the Licensee's amateur station (without the need to be in the presence of and under the direct supervision of the latter) on frequency bands, with classes of emission and power limitations specified in Schedule 1 of the Amateur Station Licence.

3.2 Version 2 of *SCI* (for clubs)

“Except for repeater station which may be unmanned, the Station shall be operated by, or in the presence of and under the supervision of a person who has been authorized by the Licensee in that behalf and who possesses the written permission of the Authority to fill the position of operator of an amateur station for radiocommunications. ”

3.2.1 Explanation

Repeater station may be unmanned. A club station should only be operated by a person who holds a valid Amateur Station Licence and/or ATO and who is authorised by the club to operate the Station, or by any other person in the presence of and under the direct supervision of the authorised person. The Station must be operated on frequency bands, with classes of emission and power limitations specified in Schedule 1 of the Amateur Station Licence.

4. Schedules and Notes to Amateur Station Licence

4.1 There are two schedules attached to an Amateur Station Licence:

(A) Schedule 1 sets out the authorised frequency bands, the frequency allocation, the classes of emissions and the maximum power permitted.

(B) Schedule 2 shows the location(s) covered by the Amateur Station Licence.

4.2 The “Notes to the Schedule 1” attached to an Amateur Station Licence explains the terms used in Schedule 1. It also explains the requirements of some of the licensing conditions. Licensees and interested persons are advised to acquaint themselves with these notes.