

FOUNDATION LICENCE

The Foundation licence is the basic level of knowledge and skills to assemble and operate a setup in the amateur radio spectrum.¹

Process

- Study basic theory, regulations and safety practical subjects. Free Club support and instruction.
- Sit theory exam organised by the Australian Marine College (AMC). See sample²
- Sit practical exam supervised by AMC assessors. See sample³
- On passing the exams, AMC will issue a pass certificate.
- You then apply for a licence which is managed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)⁴
- Get on air.

Fees and Charges

Our Club will provide free support and mentoring associated with gaining you Foundation Licence.

Several training manuals are available. The recommended manual is the one provided by the WIA.⁵

The current charge for a Foundation Licence assessment, by the AMC, which includes the written and practical tests, is \$90.

The Foundation Licence is issued by ACMA and currently costs approx. \$78 for an initial licence and a renewal fee of approx. \$53 per annum after that. (The ACMA usually revises its fees each year on June 30).

Study Subjects.

Theory is based on the Foundation Manual and includes the following subjects. No prior knowledge of electricity, electronics or radios is needed to study for the Foundation licence. Proficiency in Morse code is no longer required for amateur licences.

- Nature of Amateur Radio
- Licence Conditions based on the Radiocommunications Licence Conditions (Amateur Licence) Determination 2015⁶
- Technical Basics
- Transmitters and Receivers
- Transmission Lines and Antennas
- Propagation
- Interference
- Safety
- Operating Practices and Procedures

¹ <http://www.wia.org.au/licenses/foundation/about/>

² http://www.wia.org.au/licenses/foundation/trialexam/documents/FL_Sample_Theory_assessment.pdf

³ <http://www.wia.org.au/licenses/assessor/documentation/documents/Form%204%20Practical%20Assessment.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.acma.gov.au/>

⁵ <https://www.wia.org.au/licenses/foundation/foundationmanual/>

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http://www.wia.org.au/licenses/assessor/documentation/documents/Radiocommunications_Licence%20Conditions_Amateur_Licence_Determination_2015.pdf

Passed Your Exam

ACMA will issue you with a VK3Fxxx call sign. The F designates Foundation and you can now get on air and surf the world by radio.

Radio Bands You Can Use

The Foundation Licence can operate in the bands listed below using the modes listed in the right hand column. Use of commercially manufactured transmitting equipment only is allowed.

Radio band	Frequency	Permitted Emission Modes
80 Metres	3.500 MHz - 3.700 MHz	Amplitude Modulation (AM) voice Single Side Band (SSB) voice Hand Keyed Morse Code
40 Metres	7.0 00 MHz - 7.300 MHz	
15 Metres	21.000 MHz - 21.450 MHz	
10 Metres	28.000 MHz - 29.700 MHz	Amplitude Modulation (AM) voice Single Side Band (SSB) voice Hand Keyed Morse Code Frequency Modulation (FM) voice
2 Metres	144 MHz - 148 MHz	
70 Centimetres	430 MHz - 450 MHz	

Distances You Can Work

Radio band	Distance & Coverage
3.5MHz (80 metres)	Typically up to 150KM during the day and up to 3000KM at night.
7MHz (40 metres)	Typically up to 1000KM during the day and during good conditions world wide at night.
21 MHz (15 metres)	World wide mostly during the day.
28 MHz (10 metres)	World wide during periods of high sunspot activity and up to 3000km in summer.
144MHz (2 metres)	Local coverage and world wide via "IRLP" and EchoLink.
432MHz (70cm)	Local coverage, over 2000 km using something known as tropospheric ducting and world wide via "IRLP" and EchoLink.