

Chapter 10

Regulations

An Amateur Radio Licence, issued by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), authorises the operation of an Amateur station for self-training in radio communications, intercommunications between Radio Amateurs and technical investigations into radio communications.

A radio amateur is not allowed to use an amateur radio transmission for the following purposes.

- Commercial purposes.
- Transmit any kind of entertainment or advertising.
- Transmit secret or encoded messages for the purpose of obscuring the meaning of the message. (Encoded messages are permitted if their intention is to control equipment such as satellite or repeater station.)
- Transmission on behalf of a third party for financial gain.
- Amateur Radio Licence only authorises Amateur-to-Amateur communications.
- Not permit another person to operate the licensee's station unless the person is suitably qualified.

Unlicensed radiocommunications or transmissions outside the Amateur Radio bands is prohibited except in an emergency.

Amateur radio is authorised to operate on several frequency bands however some bands are 'shared' with other radio services.

The Foundation Licence

The Foundation Licence is an entry level licence and offers many opportunities to experience amateur radio, although the licence is limited in frequencies and power output.

A Foundation Amateur Licence is subject to conditions in the following regulations.

Hint: Ensure you are reading the latest version of these documents.

1. [The Radiocommunications Act 1992.](#)
2. [Radiocommunications Licence Conditions \(Amateur Licence\) Determination 2015 Compilation No. 4 Dated 14 July 2023](#)

The conditions of the Foundation Licence, such as frequencies, power and types of transmission modes are to be found in document 2 Schedule 3A listed above.

Transmitter Output Power

The licensee must not operate an amateur foundation station using a transmitter output power of more than 10 watts peak power (P_x).

Permitted Frequencies and Modes

A Foundation Licence permits operation on the following frequencies and modes.

[Consult the band plan here.](#)

Foundation (6 bands)

Band	Freq MHz	Mode
80m	3.5 – 3.7	Any mode
40m	7 – 7.3	
15m	21 – 21.45	
10m	28 – 29.7	
2m	144 – 148	
70cm	430 – 450	

Foundation licensees are not permitted operate through a cross-band repeater system where the repeater output frequency is not permitted to be used by a foundation licensee.

The LCD Part 1 (1C) (2) states that the **frequency band** is described using two frequencies, starts immediately above the lower frequency and ends at the higher frequency.

Your carrier and modulated signal cannot cross the boundary edge at the bottom of the boundary edge. Interpretation says your signal bandwidth may exceed the top frequency, but this is not advised.

Distress and Urgency Messages

Distress

Mayday is an internationally recognised radio word (telephony) to signal **distress** primarily used by aircraft and boats. A 'mayday' call indicates an aircraft or ship is in grave and imminent danger and requires immediate assistance. A seamen and pilots are told to repeat the word three times, "Mayday, mayday, mayday." The repetition helps radio operators distinguish the transmission from other transmissions.

SOS is the internationally recognised morse code signal (telegraphy) for Mayday.

If you hear a distress call and no one responds to the call, you are authorised to respond to that call no matter what the frequency.

Urgency

The term “pan pan”, is used in radiotelephony communications to signify that there is an urgency on board a boat, ship, aircraft or other vehicle. Pan Pan is referred to when there is a state of urgency but not when there is an immediate danger to a person's life or to the vessel itself. Pan-Pan is derived from the French word "panne", which means failure or breakdown. Pan-Pan most often refers to a mechanical failure or breakdown.

State	Telegraphy	Telephony
Distress	SOS SOS SOS	Mayday Mayday Mayday
Urgency	XXX XXX XXX	Pan-pan Pan-pan Pan-pan

Hint: Know and remember the difference between telegraphy and telephony.

If an operator hears a mayday call, listen to see if anyone responds. If no response is heard, record all details and pass on to a safety authority for a professional response.

If you hear a call and the operator does not know the correct procedure and the operator is describing the situation as grave, treat this as a mayday call.

If you hear a mayday and the message is being addressed by the authorities, do not transmit near that frequency.

Station Call Sign

Call signs must be used at the following times, even when conducting tests.

- At the beginning of a transmission
- At the end of the transmission
- Every 10 minutes during a transmission

Operations and ACMA

ACMA is authorised to undertake the following actions.

- ACMA inspectors are authorised to inspect the operator's licence any reasonable time.
- Restrict the operation of a station causing interference.
- Inspect a station to ensure compliance.
- Impose fines and or equipment forfeit if deliberate interference is caused by a station.

All operators are to inform ACMA of changes to their residential address.

An amateur station must be kept secure to prevent unlawful and unlicensed operation of the station.

Portable operation

The licensee must not operate an amateur station at a location not mentioned in the licence for the station for a continuous period longer than:

- (a) if the station is an amateur beacon station or an amateur repeater station —7 days; or
- (b) in any other case —4 months.

Go to Chapter 10 Questions.

Have fun and stay safe.