

Licence Conditions I

IN YOUR FOUNDATION Licence training you learned a little about the rules you needed to follow as a Foundation Licence holder. At the Intermediate level you will need a better understanding of the licence requirements, particularly those covering the additional privileges you will gain at the Intermediate level. The three sets of licence conditions were combined into one document in December 2006 so whilst you will still need to abide by the limitations of the Foundation licence for now, you will need to remember the additional terms covered by the Intermediate syllabus for the exam and for when you take out your Intermediate Licence.

In this worksheet, and a later one covering other parts of the Licence conditions, the style will be to give **the syllabus item in bold**, the actual text from the licence *in italics*, and some words of explanation in plain text.

The licence extracts are correct at the time of printing, but you should ensure you have the latest copy for study. This can be checked by looking at the Ofcom web site (www.ofcom.org.uk) or by obtaining a current copy from the Ofcom publications office.

1a.1 Recall the various types of amateur licence, Foundation, Intermediate, Full and identify their Callsigns, including Regional Secondary Locators and optional suffixes.

You already know that there are 3 levels of licence and that they each have different Callsign series:

- Foundation: M6QQQ
- Intermediate: 2E0QQQ
- Full: M0QQQ

The same Regional Secondary Identifiers (shown in **Fig 16**) are used at the Intermediate level, depending on your location, except that 'E' is used for England:

- D - Isle of Man
- E - England
- I - Northern Ireland
- J - Jersey
- M - Scotland
- U - Guernsey
- W - Wales

You will recall that for Foundation and Full Callsigns these secondary letters are inserted between the M and the number in the Callsign prefix (e.g. MW for Wales, MU for Guernsey, etc.). However, for the Intermediate Licence Callsigns, E is used for England and is replaced by the Regional Secondary Locator for the other parts of the UK. So the Intermediate Licence holder, 2E0QQQ, would be an amateur based in England. Had the station been registered in Wales the Callsign would have been 2W0QQQ.

If you are operating away from your Main Station Address (the address on your Licence) a number of suffixes are recommended to help identify your location. The suffixes, which apply to all 3 levels of Licence, are '/P' if at a fixed location which does not have an address, such as a field; '/M' when mobile as a pedestrian or in a vehicle or on a vessel on Inland Waters, such as a river or lake; and '/A' when at an address which is not your Main Station Address, visiting a friend's house perhaps.

The suffix '/MM', meaning Maritime Mobile (on a vessel at sea) is only available to Full Licence holders. Although you are not permitted to operate '/MM' with an Intermediate Licence you do need to remember what the suffix means.

Historically (but not for the exam), UK amateur Callsigns began with a G. However, the G series filled up and the M series was started a few years ago. You may also come across GB Callsigns, which are issued to special event stations and repeaters. There are also special Club Callsigns, but these do not feature in the exam either.

2a.1 Recall that an Intermediate Licensee may operate the Radio Equipment of any other UK licensed amateur under that person's direct supervision using the supervisor's Callsign, and obeying the terms of the supervisor's licence.

Recall that an Intermediate Licensee may similarly supervise operation by another UK licensed amateur and that operation should be within the limitations and privileges of the supervisor's licence and using the supervisor's Callsign.

Recall that an Intermediate Licensee may (with permission) use another amateur's radio equipment unsupervised, but using the Callsign and conditions of his or her own licence.

3(1) Subject to Clauses 1(2), 3(2) and 3(3), the Licensee shall ensure that the Radio Equipment shall only be operated by the Licensee personally and by no other persons.

3(2) The Licensee may permit the operation of the Radio Equipment by a person who holds a current United Kingdom Amateur Radio Licence provided that any such operation of the Radio Equipment is carried out in the presence of and under the direct supervision of the Licensee and that such persons are made aware of, and of the requirement to comply with, the terms, conditions and limitations of this Licence.

Clause 3(1) limits the operation of your 'Radio Equipment' to you the Licence Holder. In this context 'Radio Equipment' is defined as radio transmitting and receiving apparatus installed and used in accordance with Section 2 of the Licence (i.e. using the Callsign, limitations and privileges of the Licence).

At Intermediate level you are still *not* allowed to supervise unlicensed people in the same way that a Full Licence holder can; passing greetings messages or carrying out Foundation practical assessments. However, Clause 3(2) allows you to permit your 'Radio Equipment' to be operated by other UK radio amateurs, provided that you are there to supervise. Under these circumstances the 'Radio Equipment' must be operated under the terms and Callsign of *your* Licence. Because *your* Callsign is being used, you are responsible for what happens and must be there to supervise, even if the person operating has a Full licence.

You can allow another amateur to operate your radio transmitting and receiving equipment unsupervised if you wish, but it then ceases to be defined as your 'Radio Equipment' and the other amateur must then operate under *their* own Licence and *their* own Callsign; you and your Licence are not involved.

Similarly you can, if they let you, operate someone else's transmitting and receiving equipment but using your Callsign and obeying the terms of your own Licence. Then they don't need to supervise you. Of course, if you are not at your Main Station Address you should add the appropriate suffix to your Callsign.

If you visit a Full licensee and operate under their supervision and use their Callsign then you can use the higher powers and privileges of their Licence. Indeed, if they visit you, you can operate under their supervision and Callsign and still enjoy the higher powers even though you are using your own radio transmitting and receiving equipment. The rules you operate under are governed by who is supervising and the Callsign being used.

The important point to note is that the legal ownership of the radio transmitting and receiving equipment does not define whose 'Radio Equipment' it is whilst it is being operated, the Licence under which the equipment is being operated, and hence the Callsign being used, does. This is illustrated well by considering a situation where two amateurs live at the same address and share one set of radio transmitting and receiving equipment. Each person will use their own Callsign and the radio transmitting and receiving equipment becomes their 'Radio Equipment' for the duration of the period of operation.

2b.1 Recall the Radio Equipment must not be used for business or advertising purposes

- 1(1) *The Licensee shall ensure that the Radio Equipment is only used:*
- (a) *for the purpose of self-training in radio communications, including conducting technical investigations; and*
 - (b) *as a leisure activity and not for commercial purposes of any kind.*

As for the Foundation licence, you should only speak to other amateur stations and talk about personal topics and your amateur radio activities. You should also remember from your Foundation studies that you must not carry out any business activities using amateur radio or pass messages for other groups that are not amateur radio related.

This means that it would be quite acceptable to announce forthcoming radio club meetings to other amateurs you are in contact with or even that one of your own personal radios is for sale, but it would not be acceptable for an amateur radio shop to advertise what is on special offer.

2b.2 Recall that the Licensee may pass messages on behalf of a User Service and may permit a member of the User Service to use the Radio Equipment to send messages. Recall the identity of the Users Services.

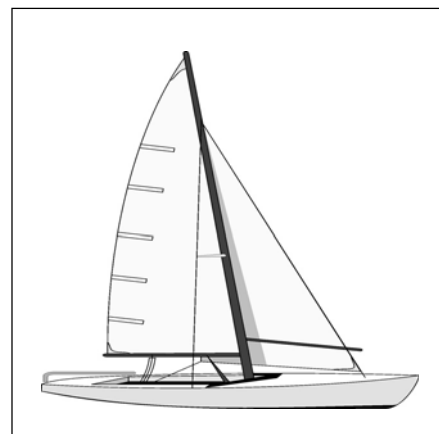
- 1(2) *The Licensee may use or permit the use of the Radio Equipment by a member of a User Service during any operation conducted by a User Service or during any exercise relating to such an operation in each case for the purpose of sending Messages on behalf of the User Service.*

As a service to the community, amateurs are permitted to pass messages on behalf of the 'User Services'. Clause 17(1)(qq) gives the full list but the ones you need to remember are:

Police, Fire, Ambulance, Coastguard, British Red Cross, St John Ambulance, the St Andrew's Ambulance Association, the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS), the Salvation Army and any Government Department.

Many of those bodies will have their own means of radio communications, but often communication between different organisations is not readily available. Some bodies such as the WRVS do not normally need communications and do not have their own, but at a major event they may well have a need.

Raynet is an amateur organisation set up specifically for the purpose of passing messages at major events and in emergencies. If you are interested in joining, the RSGB or the Local Authority Emergency Planning Department should be able to put you in touch.



Operating an amateur radio transmitter from a boat or ship is permitted on inland waterways, but not on tidal rivers or at sea.

2c.1 Recall that the licensee must transmit the Callsign printed in the Licence during CQ calls, when establishing communication and every 15 minutes during long periods of transmission

- 13(1) *The Licensee, or, if this Licence is a Full Licence, then any other authorised person who uses the Radio Equipment, shall transmit the Callsign specified in Section 1 of this Licence and any Modifier applicable under the provisions of this Licence:*
- (a) *during initial calls ("CQ" calls) or calls to establish contact with another Amateur;*
 - (b) *at least once every 15 minutes when the period of communication is longer than 15 minutes;*
 - (c) *whenever the frequency of transmission is changed, at the beginning of transmission on the new frequency;*
 - (d) *by the same type of transmission that is being used for the communication;*
 - (e) *on the same frequency that is being used for the communication.*

Section (a) says that you must give your callsign when you make a 'CQ' call or when you first make contact with somebody. (b) Means that if your conversation lasts more than 15 minutes, you must give your callsign at not more than 15 minute intervals. In practice amateurs give their callsign rather more frequently, but often not on every 'over'.

(c) Makes the point that if you change frequency you will need to give your callsign again.

(d) Says that if you are using a particular type of transmission (e.g. single sideband) then you give your callsign in the same type of transmission.

(e) Goes hand in hand with (c), requiring you to give your callsign on the same frequency as the one you are using for your contact.

2c.2 Recall the meaning of "Main Station Address", "Alternative Address", "Temporary Location" and "Mobile"

The definitions are in clause 17(1) of the licence.

- (v) *Main Station Address means the main station address stated in Section 1 of this Licence.*
- (c) *Alternative Address means a fixed postal address in the United Kingdom other than the Main Station Address.*
- (kk) *Temporary Location means a fixed location in the United Kingdom, which is not the Main Station Address or an Alternative Address.*
- (y) *Mobile means the Radio Equipment is located in the United Kingdom: in or on any vehicle or conveyance; on the person of the Licensee where the Licensee is a pedestrian; or on any Vessel on Inland Waters.*

This should be reasonably clear. The Main Station Address is the one you notified when you applied for the licence. In normal circumstances this will be your home address.

An alternative address is any other house or premises where a letter can be delivered, typically this might be a friend's house or a hotel.

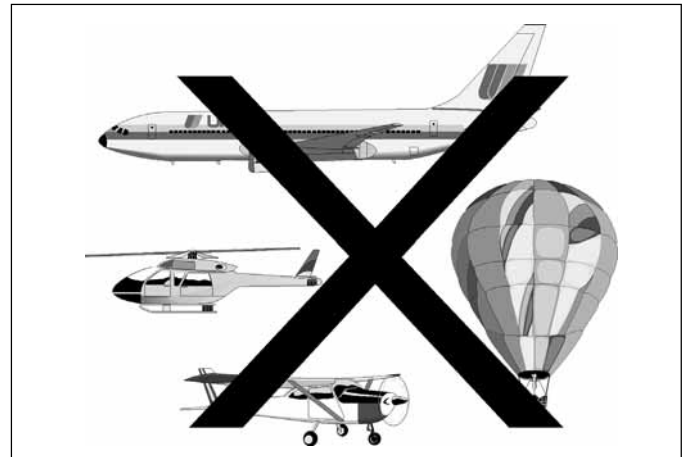
A temporary location is any other fixed location. Operating in a contest is frequently done away from home. 'Field Days' require you to be independent of mains supplies, for example. However, the power supply does not determine the suffix used, it is the definition of the location that dictates which is the appropriate.

Mobile means that the Radio Equipment is installed in a vehicle, or it is being carried by a pedestrian, or it is installed on a some kind of boat on a lake, river or canal and includes periods of stationary operation such as sitting on a park bench or operating from a hilltop car park.

It is no longer a requirement to say where you are, whether at an alternative address, a temporary location or mobile although many amateurs do. The requirement to add the appropriate suffix (/A, /P or /M) was also removed in December 2006 although the practice continues to be seen as 'recommended best practice'.

2c.3 Recall that the licence does not permit operation from an aircraft or vessel on the seaward side of the low-water line as marked on official charts.

You may be familiar with the request to switch off all mobile phones when on an aircraft. This is due to the possibility of interference with the aircraft's own communications systems. The amateur licence prohibits airborne operation for the same reasons. Operation at sea is also prohibited at Intermediate licence level, but you may use your station mobile (/M) from a vessel on inland waterways, a canal boat, for example.



Operating an amateur radio transmitter from any airborne vehicle is forbidden.

2c,4 Recall that other Administrations (foreign countries) do not routinely recognise the Intermediate Licence.

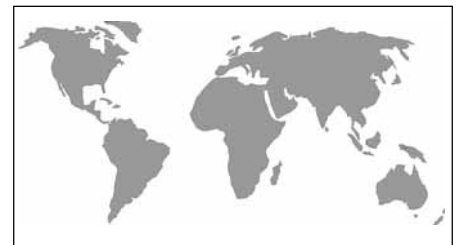
At the Full licence level the qualification requirements throughout Europe and many other countries are harmonised. The Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate (HAREC) is available to all Full European licence holders, simplifying travel with amateur radio. However, not all countries have Foundation, Intermediate or Novice licences, and where they do their standards are not coordinated. Consequently, other countries do not generally recognise the UK Foundation or Intermediate licences for use abroad. This is also the reason why operation at sea is limited to Full licensees. However, it is always worth checking with the authorities in the country you are travelling to before you go.

What Next?

THAT COMPLETES all you need to know about who can operate your station, what messages you can send and how to identify yourself. It looks like quite a lot of work, but it

should not take long for it to become reasonably familiar. It is the sort of material that is best read, discussed as a topic with your instructor or another amateur, then put down while you do something else. When you have a few spare moments take time to read this worksheet and the second one on Licence Conditions again.

In the second worksheet we will look at the rules and regulations that apply to some other aspects of amateur radio such as beacons, digital operations, inspection, and Electromagnetic Compatibility.



Its a big old world, but to operate your transmitter outside of the UK & Northern Ireland you will have to progress onto a Full Licence.