

# SUWS



## Updating the Amateur Radio Licence

October 2015

[suws.org.uk](http://suws.org.uk)

# Who is interested?



Southampton University Wireless Society

- Newcomers!
  - Learn about the regulatory side of the hobby
- Existing licencees!
  - Find out about changes that may affect how you operate

As a radio ham, it is your responsibility to be aware of the licence conditions!

# Brief outline



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- 10 questions
- Put out to consultation in September 2014
- RSGB recommends answers to the community
- OfCom response published in December 2014
- Changes took full effect from June 2015
  - Updated licence conditions posted to all licencees

# Question 1

*“Do you agree with the proposal to include, as a matter of course, the 470 kHz and 5 MHz bands into the Licence for all Amateur Radio (Full) licensees?”*

Response: 470kHz and 5 MHz now available for fully-licenced amateurs.

**Beware of restrictions!**

# 470kHz band

- 472-479kHz
- 5W EIRP
- Note: 490kHz is for Maritime Mobile services!
- Must use less than 1W EIRP if within 800km from the border of certain countries

# 5MHz band

- 5.2585 – 5.4065MHz
- 100W PEP, 200W EIRP
- Antenna elevation less than 20m
- UK only
- **MoD is primary user!**
- If operating from **temporary location**, you must identify your location to **within 5km** at least every **30 mins!**

# Question 2

*“Do you agree that expressly linking a Full (Club) Licensee’s authorisation to use the spectrum to his or her representation of a named club, and by adding a further ground for revoking the Licence to include circumstances where the licensee no longer represents the club, will help ensure that a club’s call sign remains with the club?”*

# Question 2

- Callsigns normally held by a person, not a group
  - A club callsign should however transfer to another person so that it will remain within the club
- **Licence conditions now reflect this:**
  - Section 1: an individual may only hold a club callsign, so long as they represent that club
  - Clause 4(2): A licence may be revoked should the club callsign holder no longer represent that club



# Question 3

*“Do you agree that Ofcom should include a further ground of revocation in the Licence as proposed above in order to better align Clause 4 with the definition of ‘Disqualified Person’?”*

# Question 3

- **New ground for disqualification added**
  - Being convicted for an offence under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 within the last 6 months
- Closes loophole
- Also applies to club licence holders

# Question 4

*“Do you agree that the word “automatically” should be removed from Clause 4(5) of the Licence, in relation to the revocation of the Licence for failure to comply with the revalidation requirements?”*

# Question 4

- Previously, a licence was automatically revoked if not revalidated every 5 years
- **This is no longer the case**
  - OfCom must now give one month notice of revocation
- **You still need to validate every 5 years!**
  - **Remember to update every time you change address**

# Question 5

*“Do you agree that Clause 15 of the Licence should be updated to reflect the wording included in Ofcom’s General Licence Conditions Booklet?”*

- This is regarding ongoing fees for the licence

# Question 5

- Licence update, but don't worry: no fees!
  - Although this shall be revaluated in 2016
- OfCom prefers that fees for licences are defined and enacted by legislation
  - Hence they should not be detailed within the licence itself
- *“The licensee shall pay to OfCom the relevant sums as provided in Section 12 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 and the regulations made thereunder”*

# Question 6



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*“Do you agree that Clause 13 of the Licence should be amended to allow for a simpler, more flexible approach for identifying Amateur Radio stations?”*

# Question 6

- Previous requirement: identify yourself at least every 15 minutes
  - Not always possible, i.e. very slow morse
- Now *“as frequently as is practicable during transmissions”*
  - *“The callsign must be given in voice or other appropriate format consistent with the mode of operation”*
- Maintain good practice: use your callsign at least once every “over”



# Question 7 & 8

*“Given the current uncertainty amongst Radio Amateur licensees in relation to Clause 2(2), do you believe that it would be a practical solution for Ofcom to remove this Clause and to insert additional wording into Clause 13, as proposed above?”*

*“Do you agree with Ofcom’s proposal to amend Clause 2(3) of the Licence to require Intermediate licensees to transmit a call sign that reflects the location of their main station?”*

# Question 7 & 8

- Regarding the use of Regional Secondary Locators
  - It was suggested that these no longer be mandatory
- **Still mandatory to use, but exact usage clarified**
  - The locator is for your current location of operation, NOT your home address!
  - Format is unchanged



# Question 9

*“Do you agree that replacing Clauses 2(1) and 16(1) with a new Clause to simplify and bring together all of the Licence conditions relating to the operation of radio equipment away from the Main Station address will make these provisions clearer?”*

# Question 9

- **Wording has been tweaked**
- **Clause 2 states:**
  - Only operate within UK, and also:
    - Full licencee may be maritime mobile
    - Full licencee may operate in CEPT countries
    - No airborne operation
- **Clause 16 states:**
  - May operate abroad, but:
    - Follow radio regulations of the host nation
    - Present a copy of the licence upon request
    - Must use the host country callsign prefix, unless otherwise instructed

# Question 10



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*“Do you agree that the proposed changes will clarify RAYNET operation under the Licence?”*

# Question 10

- Clarifies the amateur use of encryption when supporting emergency services
  - Currently, encryption is “banned”
- You may use encryption where appropriate, whilst assisting with emergency services
  - But that’s it! No closed encryption at any other times!

# In short

- Most changes to licence are subtle
  - Please respect them!
- Keep an eye out for OfCom's review of licence fees in 2016
- New RSL for Cornwall!

# Questions?