

**MINISTRY CIRCULAR**  
**NO. 87-174**

Pursuant to the provisions of the Radio Control law, Act No. 3846 as amended by Commonwealth Act No. 571 and No. 546, the following rules and regulations governing the Amateur radio Service to be known as the Revised Amateur Radio Regulations, are hereby promulgated.

**SECTION I. GENERAL**

1. Statement of purpose – Under these Radio Regulations, the following scopes of purpose are adopted in order to maintain a high standard of service, technique, and procedures in the Amateur Radio Service.
  - 1.1 RECOGNITION and enhancement of the value of the amateur radio service to the public as a voluntary non-commercial radio communication service, particularly with respect to providing radio communications in any emergency involving the community, province or the nation as a whole.
  - 1.2 ENCOURAGEMENT and improvement of the amateur radio service through development of progressive skill in the science and technology of radio communications.
  - 1.3 INCREASE in the number of self-trained skilled experimentors and electronic technologists with the Amateur Radio Service.
  - 1.4 RECOGNITION of only one national amateur radio organization or society which may represent the Philippine amateurs in all conference, either local or international and with the need in view of fostering cordial relationship and efficient coordination between radio amateurs and the government.
2. Policies governing the allocation and Use of Amateur Frequencies:
  - 2.1 The frequency bands allocated by the Final Acts of the world Administrative Radio conference, Geneva 1979 to the Amateur Radio Service in Region III shall be allocated to the different classes of amateurs in the country and shall be made available for assignment to stations within the said service.
  - 2.2 The amateur frequency bands allocated by these Regulations to the amateurs shall be used only by duly licensed amateurs.
  - 2.3 The frequency bands allocated to a particular class of amateurs strictly on a non-interference bases.

- 2.4 Station licenses shall be granted to qualified members of amateur organizations duly accredited by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).
- 2.5 All licenses in this service shall cooperate in the proper use of the assigned frequency bands to minimize interference and thereby obtain the most effective use of their respective stations.

Definitions – The following definitions shall apply in these radio regulations:

- 3.1 Amateur or Amateur Radio Operator – A person, interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim without pecuniary interest, duly authorized to operate an amateur station.
- 3.2 Amateur Fixed Radio Station – The term “Amateur Mobile Station” means a radio station in the amateur service installed at specified fixed station, amateur portable station or another amateur fixed radio station.
- 3.3 Amateur Mobile Station – The term “Amateur Mobile Station” means a station in the amateur service installed on a board vehicle or vessel and intended to be used while in motion or during halts at unspecified points.
- 3.4 Amateur portable Station – The term “amateur Portable Station” means an amateur station so designed that it may conveniently be moved about from one place to another place or personally carried and be operated while in motion or during temporarily halts.
- 3.5 Amateur Radio communications – The term “Amateur Radio Communications” means telecommunications by means of radio waves conducted by or among duly authorized amateur on a non-commercial basis.
- 3.6 Amateur Radio Inspector – Refers to an Amateur Radio Class “A” operator who has operated his own amateur station for at least five (5) years as a Class A licensee and who has been deputized proposedly by the NTC to inspect stations.
- 3.7 Amateur Radio Service- A radio communications service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by amateurs.
- 3.8 Amateur Satellite Service – A radio communication service using space stations on earth satellites for the same purposes as those of the amateur Radio Service.

- 3.9 NTC – Refers to the National Telecommunications commission
- 3.10 Radio – General Term applied to the use of radio wave.
- 3.11 Radio Apparatus – Means a reasonably complete and sufficient combination of distinct radio equipment intended for and capable of being used either for transmission or reception radio signals or both.
- 3.12 Radio Station – One or more transmitters, receivers or combination of transmitters and receivers including the accessory equipment authorized at a location for carrying on a radio communication service.
- 3.13 Repeater Station – Refers to an unmanned fixed station which receives a signal on a frequency and automatically re-transmits the same signal on another frequency.
- 3.14 Telecommunications – Any transmission, emission, or reception of signs, signal, writings, images and sounds or intelligence of any nature by wire, radio, optical or other electromagnetic systems.
- 3.15 Trustee – A class “A” amateur who is operating his own station for at least five (5) years and who is a duly appointed by the board of a club or association to supervise and control the proper use and operation of the fixed station of that association.
- 3.16 Radio amateur Operator Certificate – is a certificate of authority issued to a qualified person who has passed an appropriate amateur examination.

## SECTION II. APPLICATIONS AND LICENSES

- 1. Station Permit of Licenses Required – No radio station in the Amateur Radio Service shall be operated, except and in accordance with a valid permit or license issued by the National Telecommunications Commission.
- 2. Conditions for the Grant of amateur Licenses
  - 2.1 An applicant for amateur license must qualify under the provisions of Section IV (2) and a holder of an appropriate amateur radio operator certificate.
  - 2.2 An amateur radio license shall be issued to a person who has passed the appropriate NTC examination.
  - 2.3 A complete set of applications for an Amateur license shall have been filed with the NTC.

3. Classes of Amateur:
  - A – Advance Class
  - B – General Class
  - C – Technician Class
  - D – Novice Class
4. Privileges of Operator Licenses – the NTC shall prescribe the amateur privileges including the use of exclusive bands for each class.
5. Effectivity of the Operator Certificate and/or Licenses – The NTC may issue new or renewal operator license to a qualified applicant who has submitted appropriate applications, therefor with a maximum effectivity period of three (30) years and the expiration date falling on the licensee’s birth month except those who are given lifetime or permanent operator’s privileges.
6. Scope of Authority of amateur Licenses – A duly approved amateur license shall convey to the grantee/operator the authority to install and operate the authorized equipment for an amateur fixed, mobile and/or portable radio station in the frequency bands allowable for the class of the operator as certified therein.
7. Renewal of Licenses – An amateur license without changes in any of its particulars may be renewed provided that the application for renewal has been filed with the NTC at least thirty (30) days before the date of expiration of the license. The above provisions shall also apply for radio operators certificate.
  - 7.1 An amateur license that expired less than two (2) years may be renewed upon filing of a renewal application and payment to the NTC of the prescribed annual fee for every year that the equivalent to 100% of the annual fee for every year that the license has expired or 50% of the annual fee for a fraction of a year of expiration.
  - 7.2 An amateur license that expired more than two (2) years, but less than 5 years may be renewed in the same manner as SECTION 7.1 above. The applicant, however, will receive a different call sign from that of the former license.
  - 7.3 For an amateur license that expired beyond the grace period provided under this Section, the applicant shall be required to pass an appropriate examination before another license may be issued to him.
  - 7.4 The above provisions shall also apply to amateur radio operator certificate.
8. Modification of amateur License – Application for modification of the amateur license shall be filed with the NTC for upgrading to a higher class of license, transfer of location of the fixed station or installation of additional or change of

transmitter/transceiver. In any case, the operation of the station with any such license shall not be allowed without the approval of the NTC.

9. Duplicate License – An amateur license which has been lost, mutilated or destroyed shall be reported immediately and an application for a duplicate be filed with the NTC. If the lost original license is later found, the duplicate shall be returned to the NTC immediately.
10. Schedule of fees – The schedule of fees shall be as prescribed by the National Telecommunications Commission duly approved by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

### SECTION III. TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

- 1.1 The following are frequency bands allocated by the National Telecommunications Commission to the amateur Radio Service in the Philippines.

1.800	-	2.000	MHz Primary (note: NIB to any Loran System)
3.500	-	3.900	MHz Primary
7.000	-	7.100	MHz Primary
10.000	-	10.150	MHz Secondary
14.000	-	14.250	MHz Primary
13.068	-	18.168	MHz Primary
21.000	-	21.450	MHz Primary
21..890	-	24.990	MHz Primary
28.000	-	29.000	MHz Primary
50.000	-	54.000	MHz Primary
144.000	-	146.000	MHz Primary
430.000	-	440.000	MHz Secondary (See Foot No. 652, WARC '79)
1240.000	-	1300.000	MHz Secondary
2300.000	-	2450.000	MHz Secondary
3300.000	-	3400.000	MHz Secondary
3400.000	-	3500.000	MHz Secondary
5650.000	-	5850.000	MHz Secondary
10.000	-	10.450	GHz Secondary
10.450	-	10.500	GHz Secondary
24.000	-	24.050	GHz Pirmary
24.050	-	24.250	GHz Secondary
47.000	-	47.200	GHz Primary
78.500	-	76.000	GHz Primary
76.000	-	81.000	GHz Secondary
142.000	-	144.000	GHz Primary
144.000	-	149.000	GHz Secondary
241.000	-	248.000	GHz Secondary

248.000 - 250.000 GHz Primary

1.2 The frequency bands that shall be allocated to the different classes of radio amateurs shall be determined by the National Telecommunications Commission. Stations operating in a frequency bands allocated on a secondary basis shall not cause harmful interference to stations authorized to operate in the band of a primary service.

3. Authorized Station Power Output

2.1 A Class A licensee shall be authorized to operate a HF fixed and/or MOBILE radio station with an output power not to exceed one (1) kilowatt on a continuous wave (CW) or two (2) kilo watts peak envelop power (PEP) single band suppressed carrier and state of the art on VHF/UHF fixed, mobile or portable station.

2.2 A Class B licensee shall be authorized to operate on HF fixed radio station with an output power not exceeding five hundred (500) watts on CW or one (1) kw PEP on single side band suppressed carrier and state of the art on VHF/UHF fixed, mobile or portable station.

2.3 A Class C licensee shall be authorized to operate on HF fixed radio station with an output power not exceeding 100 watts on CW or 200 watts PEP SSBSC and 100 watts on VHF fixed, portable or mobile station.

2.4 A Class D licensee shall be authorized to operate on VHF Base, Mobile or portable with 100 watts maximum output power.

EMERGENCY CHANNEL

3.1 Channel 145.000 MHz – 25 KHz shall be used only for emergency communication and general calling for radio telephony.

3.2 To facilitate the reception of distress calls, all transmission on 14.000 MHz shall be kept to a minimum and shall not exceed one minute.

3.3 Before transmitting on the frequency 145.000 MHz a station should listen on this frequency for a reasonable period to make sure that no distress traffic is being sent. This provision does not apply to a station in distress.

3.4 Distress Communications

3.4.1 The distress call sent by radiotelephony consists of:

- The distress signal MAYDAY spoken three (3) times

- The words THIS IS (or DE spoken as DELTA ECHO in case of language difficulties).
- 3.4.2 - The radiotelephone distress message consists of:
- The distress signal MAYDAY.
  - The name, or other identification of the mobile station in distress.
  - Particular of its position.
  - The nature of the distress and the kind of assistance desired.
  - Any other information which might facilitate the rescue.
- 3.5 Any station in the amateur mobile service which has knowledge of a distress traffic and which cannot itself assist the station in distress is forbidden to transmit on the frequency in which the distress traffic is taking place, until such station receives the message indicating that normal working may be resumed.

#### SECTION IV. AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR EXAMINATION

Every amateur radio operator must thoroughly understand his responsibility to develop the skills that are needed to operate his radio station properly. The examination to be taken by an amateur radio operator shall determine whether he is qualified for the privileges conveyed by an amateur radio license.

1. Submission of Application for Amateur Examination Required Application for permission to take examination for amateur license shall be submitted to the NTC for appropriate action.
2. General Qualification for an amateur – An applicant for an amateur license must possess the following general qualifications.:
  - 2.1 A citizen of the Philippine or citizen of other countries who provides the same privilege extended to Filipino nationals in their country as far as examination is concerned.
  - 2.2 At least 12 years old.
  - 2.3 Good Moral character, and
  - 2.4 Ability to transmit and receive messages either in Filipino, or any of the Philippine dialects, English, Spanish or Arabic.
3. Examination Coverage – The examination shall cover the rules, procedures and technical materials that an operator will need to know in order to operate his

station properly. The examination for amateur operators shall cover the following general subjects:

- 3.1 Element I - International Morse Code
- 3.2 Element II - Rules and Regulations
- 3.3 Element III - Fundamentals of Electronics and Electricity
- 3.4 Element IV - Amateur Radio Practice
- 3.5 Element V - Signals, Frequencies and Emission
- 3.6 Element VI - Circuit Components
- 3.7 Element VII - Operating Procedures
- 3.8 Element VIII - Practical Circuits
- 3.9 Element IX - Antenna and Transmission Lines
- 3.10 Element X - Radio Wave Propagation

4. CODE Test:

4.1 Speed Requirements

- 4.1.1 Class "A" - 12 words per minute
- 4.1.2 Class "B" - 8 words per minute
- 4.1.3 Class "C" - 5 words per minute

4.2 Characteristics of Code Test

- 4.2.1 Every five (50 character shall be counted as one (1) word.
- 4.2.2 Every numerical or punctuation marks shall be counted as two (2) characters.

4.3 Sending – The candidate will be required to send by ordinary radiotelegraph for a duration of five (50 minutes a text which contains a combination of plain words, figures, Q signals and distress signals. He shall be considered "PASSED", if no error is committed during a period of one (1) minute reception and provided further that at least 2/3 of the entire text for five (50 minutes is transcribed.

5. Written Examination

- 5.1 Required Rating – The candidate must obtain an average of 70% to pass the written examination required for a class of amateur license provided that a rating of not less than 50% is received for any of the prescribed elements.
  - 5.2 The NTC shall prescribe the elements of examination for each class of amateur including the syllabus or area of study and examination for each element.
  - 5.3 Removal of Deficiency – A candidate who passed the written elements but failed in the code test, may be allowed to take the code removal test provide payment is made of the corresponding fee or vice-versa.
  - 5.4 In the event that a candidate for Class C fails in the Morse Code, provided he passes the other elements he shall be eligible for Class D License.
6. Special Candidates – A registered Electronics and Communication Engineer or a holder of a valid commercial first radiotelephone operator certificate is qualified to hold an amateur Class “B” provided he shall pass the examination for element I & II without necessarily undergoing the examination for Class “C”. Similarly, a holder of a valid first/or second class commercial radiotelegraph radio operator certificate shall be required to pass the examination for element II only.

#### SECTION V. RULES GOVERNING OPERATION OF AMATEUR STATIONS:

All amateur radio operators shall observe the following rules:

1. Requirement for station operation – A valid amateur radio operator certificate and a radio station license is required for the operation of an amateur station.
2. Transmission must be in plain language of either English Spanish, Filipino or any of the Philippine dialects or Arabic. Q codes may be used in voice communication.
3. An amateur shall not transmit messages or signals containing profane or indecent words or language.
4. All transmission in the amateur radio service shall carry identification signals. For this purpose, the NTC shall assign a distinctive call sign to each station.
5. Posting of Call sign – The call sign of an amateur station shall be indicated conspicuously at the authorized location of the station or on the equipment itself of a portable station.
6. All transmission with false or misleading identification are prohibited.

7. Communications with amateur stations of other countries shall be made in plain language and shall be limited to messages of a technical nature relating to test and personal remarks for which, by reason of their unimportance, recourse to the public telecommunications services is not justified.
8. An amateur shall operate his station to the extent of the privileges allowed in the station license granted to him.
9. Posting of licenses – The amateur radio license must be posted in a conspicuous place in the radio station or a certified copy thereof be carried by the operator.
10. The licenses of an amateur station authorized to operate in radiotelephony may permit any person to transmit by voice provided he controls directly the entire operation in accordance with the proper amateur practice and only the call sign of the license is used to identify the transmission.
11. An amateur shall not receive levy, or collect toll fee or other remuneration for a service or services performed by his station.
12. A license shall take great effort to regulate and control the use of any channel in the authorized frequency band/s in order to prevent harmful interference to other existing radio communications. The emitted wave shall be free as practically as possible from harmonics key clicks and other forms of unwanted signals. Intentional jamming is strictly prohibited and shall be ground for suspension and/or revocation of radio station license or any barred from issuance of any amateur license or certificate.
13. It is absolutely forbidden for amateurs to use their facilities for transmitting commercial messages or signals.
14. The radio frequencies allocated for amateur stations shall be used strictly in accordance with the class of the operating stations.
15. An amateur shall cease operation immediately upon knowing that his station is causing harmful interference to the operation of any existing station.
16. If harmful interference is being caused by an amateur radio station, the NTC shall take appropriate steps as it may deem proper for the prevention of further interference either by limiting the power of the working hours of the stations, or if necessary, by suspending its operation pending a satisfactory adjustment of the equipment. In the event of continued interference, the NTC may order temporary closure of the interfering station.
17. The power output of the equipment energizing the antenna or radiating system of an amateur radio station shall not exceed the limit prescribed for the particular class of station.

18. If the equipment of a station is capable of operating with an RF power output in excess of 500 watts, such equipment must be provided with a means for measuring the anode voltage and current of the stage supplying power to the antenna.
19. In radioteletype transmission, the frequency shift shall not exceed 850 hertz. The station must identify itself by transmitting its call sign in morse code at the start and end of its transmission and at least once every ten (10) minutes. The simultaneous transmission of sound and picture (Amateur Television) on all frequencies above 50 MHz is allowed provided such operation shall be covered by a specific authorization from the NTC.
20. The frequency of a transmitter operating on frequencies below 144 MHz must be suppressed during periods of reception.

Except for brief tests and adjustments which must be identified by the station call sign, the emission of an unmodulated carrier is not permitted on frequencies below 144 MHz.

21. Stability of transmission less than that obtainable with crystal control prohibited.
22. Broadcasting of information intended solely for licensed amateurs as defined under these regulations is authorized within the radio frequency bands allocated for the Amateur Radio Service, provided, however, that rebroadcast of radio or television programs originally intended for the entertainment of the general public is not allowed.
23. Mobile operation – A portable or mobile station shall be allowed to communicate with any amateur station provided the following requirements are complied with:
  - 23.1 Portable or mobile operation must be identified in radiotelephony by the call sign of the station suffixed by the word “portable” or “mobile” followed by the number of the district in which the operation is taking place, e.g. DUIOR portable 2, DU2JJT Mobile 9 etc. The mobile station is in home district. Radio telegraphy transmission must be identified by the call sign of the station followed by a fraction bar and number of the district of operation e.g. DU1EA/2.
  - 23.2 Portable operation must not exceed beyond one (1) month in any other area without obtaining a specific authority for continued operation and if the operation will exceed four (4) months continuously in that location a modification of the station license must be applied for.

- 23.3 The licensee shall make available the portable or mobile equipment of the station for inspection upon reasonable request of the NTC authorized representative.
  - 23.4 The licensee of a portable or mobile station may also communicate with his own fixed station is manned by another duly licensed amateur operator and identified with the use of the authorized call sign of that fixed station
24. Location and Control of Station – A fixed amateur radio station shall be authorized only in the place of residence of the radio amateur which is under his complete control. The amateur radio station shall not be located at a place under the control of any alien except when such station was established in accordance with Section IX of these regulations.
- 24.1 A duly licensed radio amateur, however, may install and operate the mobile radio equipment of ship station on any vehicle or vessel owned by the licensee and the authorized call sign is correctly shown. The licensee shall present the original station license or certified copy thereof to any representative of a law enforcement agency upon reasonable requests.
25. It shall be unlawful for a licensed radio amateur to allow the use of any of his/her transmitter/transceiver by non-licensed radio amateur. However, the use of radio transmitters/transceivers by persons other than the licensed amateurs shall be allowed provided the operator is under the direct supervision or control of the licensee.

## SECTION VI. INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF REPEATERS

- 1. Authorization to install and operate repeaters shall be granted only to duly recognized amateur associations, clubs or societies.
- 2. As far as practicable repeaters shall be designed and installed in an orderly manner to enhance the development of amateur radio communication in the country.
- 3. The amateur shall operate the repeaters properly on a non-interference basis.

## SECTION VII. AMATEUR ORGANIZATION

- 1. Accreditation of Amateur Organization.
  - 1.1 An amateur association, club, or society is the appropriate forum where members may acquire a thorough understanding of his responsibilities and develop skills to operate his station properly.

- 1.2 An amateur organization, club, or society, duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and having a minimum membership of duly 25 licensed radio amateurs may be accredited by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).
  - 1.3 An applicant organization shall execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Telecommunications Commission. The Memorandum of Agreement shall indicate the conditions under which the applicant organization may be accredited.
2. Eligibility of organization to Operate Fixed Station – The NTC may authorize a bonafide amateur club, association or society to establish and operate an amateur fixed station. However, the station license shall be issued only to a trustee designated by the club or society from among its Class A members to act as such.
- 2.1 The trustee shall be responsible for the correct and proper operation of the station, as required by these regulations. He may allow amateurs of lower classes to operate the station provided that the same shall be done under his direct supervision only.
  - 2.2 The fixed station maintained by a club or society shall be used generally for training purposes and communication with amateur stations located in other districts of the country or in friendly foreign countries.

## SECTION VIII. AMATEUR RADIO DISTRICTS

The Philippines shall be divided into nine (9) amateurs radio districts, as follows:

DISTRICT NO. 1	DISTRICT NO. 6
National Capital Region Region IV	Region VI
DISTRICT NO. 2	DISTRICT NO. 7
Region I Region II	Region VII
DISTRICT NO. 3	DISTRICT NO. 8
Region III	Region IX Region XII

DISTRICT NO. 4

Region V

DISTRICT NO. 5

Region VIII

DISTRICT NO. 9

Region X  
Region XI

#### SECTION IX. LICENSING OF FOREIGN AMATEURS

The NTC may authorize a person who is a resident and citizen of a foreign country to operate his amateur station while temporarily in the Philippines provided he is a holder of an appropriate amateur station license and an operator's license or certificate issued by the government of the country of which he is a citizen and provided that same country has a formal or an informal reciprocal agreement with the Philippines. He should be encouraged to affiliate with a local amateur club for better camaraderie and fellowship.

#### SECTION X. GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION/REVOCATION OF LICENSE

An amateur license issued under these regulations may be revoked or suspended for any of the following acts:

1. Violation of any provisions of the Radio Control Act 3846, as amended or any regulations promulgated thereunder concerning amateur radio service.
2. Making any false statement in the application for license or any report required to be submitted under these regulations.
3. Engaging in amateur work without a valid license or performing said work in behalf of a licensed amateur without proper authority therefore.
4. Failure to comply with any of the conditions under which a license is issued.
5. Intentional harmful interfering or jamming of legitimate licensed radio stations.

SECTION XI. REPEALING CLAUSE – This Circular supersedes Ministry Circular No. 82-077

SECTION XII. EFFECTIVITY: this Circular shall take effect immediately.

(SGD.) ROSAURO V. SIBAL  
Commissioner

APPROVED:

(SGD.) HERNANDO B. PEREZ  
Minister