

HOW TO BECOME A RADIO AMATEUR

1. GENERAL

You must obtain from the Postmaster General a licence which contains the conditions under which you may establish and use an amateur wireless station. Enquiries about amateur licences should be made to:-

Radio Services Department, (Radio Branch)
General Post Office,
Armour House,
St. Martins-le-Grand,
LONDON, E.C.1.

2. TYPES OF LICENCE AND LICENCE FEES

	<u>Fee on Issue</u>	<u>Renewal Fee</u> (payable each year on or before the anniversary of the date of issue of the licence).
(i) Amateur (Sound) Licence A	£2	£2
(ii) Amateur (Sound) Licence B	£2	£2
(iii) Amateur (Television) Licence	£2	£2
(iv) Amateur (Sound Mobile) Licence	£1	£1

3. (i) AMATEUR (SOUND) LICENCE A

This is the principal type of amateur transmitting licence, the conditions of which are set out in Appendices A and B to this pamphlet. In order to qualify for this licence you must satisfy the following requirements:-

- (a) be over fourteen years of age;
- (b) be a British subject;
- (c) have passed the Radio Amateur Examination (see paragraphs 5 and 7 below);
- (d) have passed the Post Office Morse Test (see paragraphs 6 and 7 below); and
- (e) have paid the licence issue fee.

Three letter call signs are allocated in strict alphabetical sequence in these licences with the prefix G3 for England, GM3 for Scotland, GW3 for Wales, GI3 for Northern Ireland, GC3 for the Channel Islands and GD3 for the Isle of Man.

(ii) AMATEUR (SOUND) LICENCE B

144 This licence does not authorise the use of frequencies below ~~427~~ Mc/s or the use of morse telegraphy; otherwise its conditions are broadly the same as those of the Amateur (Sound) Licence A. If you wish to qualify for this licence you must satisfy the same requirements as an applicant for an Amateur (Sound) Licence A except that you will not be required to pass the Post Office Morse Test.

Three letter call signs are allocated in strict alphabetical sequence in those licences with the prefix G8, or, as appropriate, GM8, GW8 etc.

(iii) AMATEUR (TELEVISION) LICENCE

If you wish to qualify for this licence you must satisfy the same requirements as an applicant for an Amateur (Sound) Licence B.

Three letter call signs are allocated in strict alphabetical sequence in these licences with the suffix /T and the prefix G6, or as appropriate G46, G46 etc.

(iv) AMATEUR (SOUND MOBILE) LICENCE

If you wish to qualify for this licence you must be the holder of (a) a current Amateur (Sound) Licence A or (b) a current Amateur (Sound) Licence B if you wish to use frequencies above ~~4.27~~^{14.4} Mc/s only.

The call sign would be the same as that allocated in your Amateur (Sound) Licence with the addition of the suffix /M.

4. THE POST OFFICE AMATEUR RADIO CERTIFICATE is issued without charge to British subjects who have passed the Radio Amateur Examination and the Post Office Morse Test. If the holder of such a Certificate applies for an Amateur (Sound) Licence A within one year of the date on which he passed the Post Office Morse Test, he will not be required to re-submit himself for either the Radio Amateur Examination or the Post Office Morse Test. If he applies for that licence more than one year after the date on which he passed the Post Office Morse Test, he will be required to pass the Post Office Morse Test again, but not the Radio Amateur Examination.

5. THE RADIO AMATEUR EXAMINATION is conducted twice yearly (usually in May and December) by the City and Guilds of London Institute, 76 Portland Place, LONDON, W.1. The syllabus of this examination (Appendix C) covers the elementary theory of radio communication, knowledge of transmitting techniques and knowledge of operating procedure appropriate to an amateur. Full details about the examination and specimen question papers may be obtained from the City and Guilds of London Institute. The price of the specimen question papers is 2s. per set per year, postage free within the United Kingdom and 2s. 3d. per set per year, surface postage free, for overseas. The price of the Institute's booklet about the Radio Amateur Examination (which includes the Syllabus) is 1s. Postal Orders, Money Orders or Cheques should be crossed and made payable to "The City and Guilds of London Institute". Postage stamps are not accepted.

6. THE POST OFFICE MORSE TEST

(i) GENERAL

As success in the morse test remains a valid qualification for a period of twelve months from the date of the test for the purpose of obtaining an Amateur (Sound) Licence or an Amateur Radio Certificate, it is therefore advisable to take the morse test after passing the Radio Amateur Examination. An applicant for an Amateur (Sound) Licence A or an Amateur Radio Certificate who passed a morse test more than twelve months before applying for such a licence or certificate would have to pass a further morse test.

(ii) LOCATION OF TESTS

Post Office Morse Tests are held at:-

(a) Post Office Headquarters in London, Post Office Coast Stations and the Radio Surveyors' Offices which are listed on the attached Morse Test Application Form (Appendix D). Application should be made to the address at which you wish to take the test; arrangements will then be made to conduct the test on a date as far as possible suitable to you.

(b) The Head Post Offices in Birmingham, Cambridge, Derby, Leeds and Manchester. These tests are held, provided there are sufficient applications, in March and September each year. Application forms should be sent to: RADIO SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY SECTION, UNION HOUSE, ST. MARTINS-LE-GRAND, LONDON, E.C.1, at least 3 weeks before the examination dates, details of which may be obtained from that Section.

(iii) FEE

The fee for a Post Office Morse Test is 10s. A postage stamp for that amount must accompany every application to take the Test. (See Section IV of Appendix D). The examination fee will not be returned to any candidate who withdraws from or fails to attend for examination, nor can it be transferred from one examination to another at a later date.

(iv) DETAILS OF THE TEST

In the sending tests a candidate is required to send 36 words (averaging five letters per word) in plain language in three minutes without uncorrected error, not more than four corrections being permitted and, 10 five-figure groups in 1½ minutes without uncorrected error, not more than two corrections being permitted.

In the receiving tests, a candidate is required to receive 36 words (arranging five letters per word) in plain language in three minutes, and 10 five-figure groups in 1½ minutes. Each letter or figure incorrectly received counts as one error. A word in which more than one letter is incorrectly received counts as the two errors. More than four errors in plain language and more than two errors in the figure test will result in failure.

The tests will not include punctuation or other symbols. The foregoing particulars are summarised in the following table:-

TYPE	LENGTH OF TEST	DURATION OF TEST	SENDING		RECEIVING
			Maximum No. of corrections	Maximum No. of uncorrected errors	Maximum No. of errors
Plain Language	36 words (Average 5 letters per word)	3 mins.	4	0	4
Figures	10 groups	1½ mins.	2	0	2

7. There are several schools at which guided tuition may be obtained by persons who propose to sit for the Radio Amateur Examination and the Post Office Morse Test. Particulars may be obtained from the local Education Authority, the City and Guilds of London Institute or the Radio Society of Great Britain, 28, Little Russell Street, LONDON, W.C.1.

8. LICENCE APPLICATION

A. AMATEUR (SOUND) LICENCES A and B AND AMATEUR (TELEVISION) LICENCE

(i) When you have attained the required qualifications you should carefully complete the attached Licence Application Form (Appendix E), and forward it to the Radio Services Department, Radio Branch, General Post Office, Armour House, St. Martins-le-Grand, LONDON, E.C.1., together with the documents listed in (ii) or (iii) below. As regards Section 5 of the Application Form a Table is enclosed giving guidance on the requirements of frequency measuring equipment to ensure compliance with the frequency measuring equipment provisions of the licence.

(ii) If you do not hold an Amateur Radio Certificate you should forward:-

(a) your Birth Certificate, valid Passport or Certificate of Naturalisation;

(b) your pass slip for the Radio Amateur Examination; and

*(c) your pass slip for a Post Office Morse Test taken during the twelve months immediately preceding the date of application.

(iii) If you hold an Amateur Radio Certificate you should forward:-

(a) your Amateur Radio Certificate; and

*(b) if that Certificate was issued more than one year before the date of application, a pass slip in respect of a Post Office Morse Test taken during the twelve months immediately preceding the date of application.

*Not applicable if the application is for an Amateur (Sound) Licence B or an Amateur (Television) Licence.

(iv) THE LICENCE FEE SHOULD NOT BE SENT UNTIL REQUESTED.

B. AMATEUR (SOUND MOBILE) LICENCE

You should apply to the Radio Service Department, Radio Branch, General Post Office, Armour House, St. Martins-le-Grand, LONDON, E.C.1. stating the call sign of your current Amateur (Sound) Licence A or B.