



AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING GUIDELINES

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Executive Summary

International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Radio Regulations No 1.56 defines Amateur Service as “A radiocommunication service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by amateurs, that is, by duly authorised persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.”

Amateur Service is established by the International Telecommunication Union through the Radio Regulations, while the Communications Authority of Kenya is mandated to regulate the technical and operational characteristics of transmissions and issues individuals with a unique identifying call sign.

The Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) is the regulatory authority for the ICT sector with responsibilities in telecommunications, e-commerce, broadcasting, postal/courier services and cybersecurity. The Authority is responsible for managing the country's numbering and frequency spectrum resources and safeguarding consumers of ICT services.

Thus, the Authority licenses the amateurs, assigns callsigns and avails the radio spectrum necessary for the operation of the services. It also develops the license conditions and technical parameters to guide radio amateurs.

Radio Society of Kenya (RSK) is the representative body of radio amateurs in Kenya. It seeks to promote & develop amateur (also referred to as Ham) radio to advance the art & science of radio & its public service role in Kenya and is open to all interested. Areas of focus are to grow their members, establish membership across the nation and continually support the growth of amateur radio in the region, including the welcoming of visitors and supporting qualified licensees in their application for amateur licenses to operate in the country.

By developing this framework, the Authority aims to lower the barrier of entry into amateur service and provide clear guidelines of the operation of amateur radio in the country. This would ease access to information and be in line with global best practices.

License Information

Application Process

- i. The applicant applies with the Authority by completing the prescribed application form and submitting the relevant documents specified in the application form.
- ii. The Authority examines the application and the attachments to determine the application's eligibility for an amateur license.
- iii. The eligible applicant pays the applicable license application and frequency fee.
- iv. Once the applicant remits the frequency fee, the Authority prepares the relevant amateur licence. The amateur license contains details of eligible frequency bands and conditions of the license.

Required Qualifications:

To obtain an Amateur Station License, the applicant must have passed the respective radio amateur examination for the respective license category, i.e. Foundation, Intermediate and Full license administered by RSK or its equivalent.

Visiting amateurs will require to present their amateur license from the country of origin. The home license should meet Kenyan license qualifications and standards.

1. License Fees Payable

The license application and frequency fees shall be as prescribed in the Authority's fee schedule. The license fee will be multiplied by the number of years selected by the applicant up to a maximum of five years.

Special Events License issued to an existing amateur radio license holder shall be exempt from license fees.

Fees, once paid, shall not be refundable.

2. License Duration

An applicant will have the option to select the duration of the amateur radio license, i.e. one year, two years e.t.c., and pay the applicable fees.

Every year, the license holder shall be required to validate their contact and location information and ensure it is updated with the Authority.

A visitor's temporary license shall be issued for a minimum period of three months to a maximum of one year.

3. License Cancellation

An amateur radio license may be canceled on request by the licensee, on expiry of a visitor temporary license, dormant/silent keys¹ or in contravention of license conditions

License categories

1. Individual Amateur Licenses

Foundation amateur license will be issued to an amateur who submits a foundation examination certificate from recognised certification bodies.

The intermediate amateur license will be issued to an amateur who submits an intermediate examination certificate from recognised certification bodies.

The full amateur license will be issued to an amateur who passed and has been issued with the equivalent of a full examination certificate from a recognized certification body.

4. Club License

Clubs License will be issued to a group of amateur enthusiasts or students interested in amateur radio. In the case of students who might not be licensed, a full amateur license holder shall act as their patron and be responsible for the license and its operation.

Where a Club is made up of licensed amateurs, one of the members shall be nominated to be responsible for the license and operation of the equipment. In the event the nominated holder leaves the club, a replacement shall be nominated immediately.

The Club License application shall be endorsed by RSK.

5. Temporary Licenses

A Visitor's Temporary License will only be granted to amateurs who have attained the equivalent of Kenya's license qualifications and standards.

Licenses for special events will be issued to existing license holders for a temporary period.

Call Sign Assignment

All call signs for the various Amateur Radio license categories will start with Kenya's Country Code **5Y to 5Z** as allocated in Table of Allocation of International Call Sign Series in Appendix 42 of the Radio Regulations.

The Authority shall differentiate each amateur license category as follows, where the third character will be a numeral differentiator:

- i. Foundation: 5Z [1] (A-Z) (A-Z)
- ii. Intermediate: 5Z [2] (A-Z) (A-Z)
- iii. Full: 5Z [4] (A-Z) (A-Z)

The Club Licenses shall follow the ITU format where the call sign starts with the country prefix, a single number, three characters and the last being a letter as follows

¹ is a term of respect for a deceased amateur radio

- Club: 5Y [2 to 9] (A to Z) (A to Z) (A to Z) (A to Z)

Visiting amateurs in the country for a duration of three months to one year shall be assigned the Kenyan prefix followed by their home call sign, i.e. 5Z /(home call sign)

In the event we have a silent key, their call sign shall be unassigned for three years before it reverts to the pool of available call signs. Dormant keys will revert to the pool after two years.

Special Event call signs shall be assigned for the duration requested on a case-by-case basis. Only applications from full license holders and clubs will be considered.

Call signs shall not be transferable.

Call signs must be transmitted at least once during each separate transmission.

Call signs will be assigned on a first-come-first-served basis.

The call sign database will be shared between the RSK and the Authority at least once yearly. This will allow the two entities to synchronise their databases and allow amateurs to know which call sign is available and make their preference.

Frequency bands

The frequency bands and corresponding power limits applicable for each license category shall be indicated in the frequency license.

The respective license holders' power levels and frequency bands are detailed in the table below.

Frequency bands	Allocation UPPER CASE -Primary allocation Lower case - Secondary allocation	Proposed License Category	Power Levels (Maximum Peak Envelope Power Output in Watts) and dB relative to 1 watt
135.7-137.8 KHz	Amateur	Foundation	1W (0 dBW) e.r.p
		Intermediate	1W (0 dBW) e.r.p.
		Full	1W (0 dBW) e.r.p.
472 – 479 KHz	Amateur	Foundation	Not Allowed
		Intermediate	Not Allowed
		Full	5W
1810 – 1850 KHz (160 meter band)	AMATEUR	Foundation	10W (10 dBW)
		Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	400W (26 dBW)

3500 – 3800 KHz (80 meter band)	AMATEUR	Foundation	10W (10 dBW)
		Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	400W (26 dBW)
5351.6 - 5366.5 KHz	Amateur	Foundation	Not Allowed
		Intermediate	Not Allowed
		Full	15 W (11dBW)
7000 – 7100 KHz (40 meter band)	AMATEUR, AMATEUR-SAT ELLITE	Foundation	10W (10 dBW)
		Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	400W (26 dBW)
7100 – 7200 KHz (40 meter band)	Amateur, Amateur-Satellite	Foundation	10W (10 dBW)
		Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	100W (20 dBW)
10100 – 10150 KHz (30 meter band),	Amateur	Foundation	10W (10 dBW)
		Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	400W (26 dBW)
14000 - 14350 KHz (20 meter band)	AMATEUR	Foundation	10W (10 dBW)
	AMATEUR SATELLITE	Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	400W (26 dBW)
18068 – 18168 KHz (17 meter band)	AMATEUR AMATEUR-SAT ELLITE	Foundation	10W (10 dBW)
		Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	400W (26 dBW)
21000 – 21450 KHz (15 meter band)	AMATEUR AMATEUR-SAT ELLITE	Foundation	10W (10 dBW)
		Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	400W (26 dBW)
24890 - 24990 KHz (12 meter band)	AMATEUR	Foundation	10W (10 dBW)
	AMATEUR SATELLITE	Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	400W (26 dBW)

28000 – 29700 KHz (10 meter band)	AMATEUR	Foundation	10W (10 dBW)
	AMATEUR SATELLITE	Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	400W (26 dBW)
50 - 54 MHz	AMATEUR	Foundation	10W (10 dBW)
		Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	400W (26 dBW)
144 - 146 MHz (2 meter band)	AMATEUR	Foundation	10W (10 dBW)
		Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	400W (26 dBW)
430-440 MHz	Amateur	Foundation	10W (10 dBW)
		Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	400W (26 dBW)
24 – 24.05 GHz	AMATEUR	Foundation	Not Allowed
		Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	400W (26 dBW)
47-47.2 GHz	AMATEUR	Foundation	Not Allowed
	AMATEUR SATELLITE	Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	400W (26 dBW)
77.5 - 78 GHz	AMATEUR	Foundation	Not Allowed
		Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	400W (26 dBW)
134-136 GHz	AMATEUR	Foundation	Not Allowed
		Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	400W (26 dBW)
241-248 GHz	Amateur	Foundation	Not Allowed
		Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	400W (26 dBW)

248-250 GHz	AMATEUR	Foundation	Not Allowed
	AMATEUR SATELLITE	Intermediate	50W (17 dBW)
		Full	400W (26 dBW)

Table 1: Amateur frequency band and power levels per license category.

Notes:

Primary Allocation: The main user of the band is thus protected.

Secondary Allocation: Non-interference to other services.

Review of the Guideline

This guideline may be reviewed from time to time to ensure it responds to industry needs as well as the Authority's statutory obligations

Addendums

Appended to these guidelines are the following draft documents

Appendix 1: Draft Licensing Procedures

Appendix 2: Draft Amateur Radio Licence Application Form

Appendix 2: Draft Amateur Radio Licence

Appendix 3: Draft Amateur ID card