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Spectrum Management and Telecommunications

Radiocommunication Information Circular

Call Sign Policy and Special Event Prefixes

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Forward

This new issue of Radio Information Circular 9, *Call Sign Policy and Special Event Prefixes*, (RIC-9) reflects recent modifications to the international *Radio Regulations* pertaining to the amateur service resulting from decisions made at the International Telecommunication Union World Radiocommunication Conference of 2003 (WRC-2003).

Purpose

This circular outlines the policies and procedures as they relate to call signs and special events prefixes within the amateur radio service.

Policy

1. Call Sign Assignment

1.1 General

A Canadian call sign is issued to anyone, including a foreign national, who successfully writes the Canadian Basic Qualification examination and obtains an Amateur Radio Operator Certificate.

Individuals who are citizens of another country and are not the holders of a Canadian Amateur Radio Operator Certificate may be authorized to operate with their own call sign with an appropriate Canadian call sign area designator in accordance with Radiocommunication Information Circular 3, *Information on the Amateur Radio Service* (RIC-3) when a reciprocal operating agreement exists between Canada and the home country or the visitor is operating under a CEPT or IARP permit.

Call signs are assigned to individuals for a lifetime. However, there are cases when call signs become available for reassignment. In the case of an amateur requesting a replacement call sign, the unwanted call sign would be returned to the block of available call signs at the time of exchange.

In the case of a deceased amateur, Industry Canada policy allows for a member of the immediate family to apply for the call sign. Immediate family includes father, mother, step-parent, foster parent, guardian, brother, sister, spouse, child, grandchild, stepchild and adopted members of the family.

If no family member has applied for the call sign within one year of the death, it will be returned to the block of available call signs.

All call signs become available for reassignment when the current year equals the certificate holder's birthdate plus 125 years.

1.2 Call Sign Prefixes

When a Canadian applicant is qualified to install or operate an amateur radio station, a call sign will be issued using a prefix based on where the applicant resides. An amateur who subsequently changes his residence from one call sign prefix area to another shall apply for a change of call sign with the prefix allocated for this new area of operation.

A foreign national holding a Canadian Amateur Radio Operator Certificate does not need to be a resident in Canada, but must have a Canadian address at which the amateur radio operations in Canada will be based. The prefix for this call sign will be determined by the relevant Canadian address. Prefixes currently used for assignment are in accordance with the following table:

Prefix		Province/Territory
VE1	VA1	Nova Scotia
VE2	VA2	Quebec
VE3	VA3	Ontario
VE4	VA4	Manitoba
VE5	VA5	Saskatchewan
VE6	VA6	Alberta
VE7	VA7	British Columbia
VE8		Northwest Territories
VE9		New Brunswick
VE0*		International Waters
VO1		Newfoundland
VO2		Labrador
VY1		Yukon Territory
VY2		Prince Edward Island
VY0		Nunavut Territory

* VE0 call signs are only intended for use when the amateur radio station is operated from a vessel that make international voyages.

1.3 Call Sign Suffixes

1.3.1 Restricted Suffixes

In certain circumstances, the Amateur Radio Service Centre may decide not to issue certain suffixes. An example is the suffix SOS, which could result in confusion in a real emergency.

Suffixes for call signs issued on a permanent basis in accordance with Section 1.4, will consist of either two or three letters.

In conformity with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) *Radio Regulations*, call signs with three-letter suffixes and four-character alpha numeric suffixes will not be issued from block QOA to QUZ as these combinations are reserved for abbreviations to be used for radiocommunication services

