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Spectrum Management and Telecommunications Policy

Radiocommunication Information Circular

Call Sign Policy and Special Event Prefixes

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All spectrum publications are now available on the Internet at:

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/spectrum>

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.

An individual who is a citizen of another country and is not the holder of a Canadian Amateur Radio Operator Certificate can be authorized to operate with his own call sign with appropriate Canadian call sign area designator in accordance with RIC-3 when a reciprocal operating agreement exists between Canada and his home country or the visitor is operating under a CEPT or IARP permit.

Call signs are assigned to an individual for a life-time, however there are cases when call signs become available for re-assignment. 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, our policy allows for a member of the immediate family to apply for the call sign. Immediate family includes: father, mother, stepparents, foster parent, guardian, brother, sister, spouse, child, grandchild, stepchild or adopted members of the family.

If one year after the death no family members have applied for the call sign, it is returned to the block of available call signs.

All call signs become available for re-assignment when the current year equals the certificate holder's birth date 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. A foreign national holding a Canadian Amateur Radio Operator Certificate does not need to be resident in Canada, but must have a Canadian address at which his amateur radio operations in Canada will be based. The prefix for their call sign will be determined by their 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
V01		Newfoundland
V02		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 vessels 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.

In conformity with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) *Radio Regulations*, call signs with three-letter suffixes will not be issued from block QOA to QUZ as these combinations are reserved for abbreviations to be used for radiocommunication services (ITU - Article S19). Existing call signs will remain valid until the call sign is released.

1.3.2 Single Letter Suffixes

Call signs with single letter suffixes will only be issued as special event call signs for limited periods of time as described in section 2.

1.3.3 Two-Letter Suffixes

In Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia the demand for two-letter suffixes exceeds the availability. In some areas, waiting lists for two-letter call signs have been held

in district offices for many years. With the introduction of the centralized Amateur Radio Service Centre, two-letter call sign waiting lists have been discontinued. Any applicant in the VE1 - VE7 and VO1 call sign areas who is qualified to install or operate an amateur radio station may apply for a two-letter call sign, if he/she meets the following eligibility criteria:

- (a) the amateur has been the holder of a Canadian Amateur Radio Operator Certificate - Basic Qualification for a minimum of five years, or;
- (b) the amateur is applying for the two-letter call sign of a deceased family member in accordance with section 1.4.4 below.

Applicants in call sign prefix areas with very small amateur populations (VE8, VE9, VY1, VY2, VY0, and VO2) in which two-letter call signs are readily available, may apply for a two-letter call sign. Once the number of two-letter call signs issued in an area exceeds 80% of the total two-letter call sign combinations, the eligibility criteria in subsection (a) above will then apply to that area.

Only one two-letter call sign is issued per amateur operator and the prefix is issued in accordance with section 1.2 and no two-letter call sign is issued to club stations. Existing two-letter call signs remains valid until the holder releases the call sign or becomes deceased.

1.3.4 Four-Letter Suffixes

Call signs with four-letter suffixes are not in conformance with the International Telecommunication Union *Radio Regulations* and are not issued.

1.4 Choosing a Call Sign

1.4.1 Choosing a First Call Sign

Applicants may request any unassigned two or three-letter suffix call sign using a prefix in accordance with section 1.2. Applicants requesting a two-letter suffix call sign must meet the requirements of section 1.3.3. A maximum of three choices in the order of preference will be considered. If none of the choices is available or no choice is indicated, the Amateur Radio Service Centre will assign a call sign.

Applicants are urged to check the availability of call signs at the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. Web site - <http://www.rac.ca>.

1.4.2 Additional Call Signs

An amateur may apply for any additional three-letter suffix call sign.

An amateur who is not already the holder of a two-letter suffix call sign, may apply for an additional call sign with a two-letter suffix providing he meets the requirement of section 1.3.3.

Please note that only one two-letter suffix call sign is assigned per amateur and the prefix requested must be from the same prefix area as the residence of the applicant.

1.4.3 Changing a Call Sign

An amateur may request a change of call sign for a three-letter suffix. If the requested call sign is available it will be issued, provided that the applicant's province or territory call sign prefix matches the call sign prefix of his area of residence.

Applicants requesting a change of call sign from a three-letter call sign to a two-letter call sign must meet the requirements of section 1.3.3.

1.4.4 Transferring Call Sign from Deceased Amateur to Immediate Family Member

The call sign of a deceased amateur will not be returned to the Available Call Signs List until one year after the death. An immediate family member who is the holder of an Amateur Radio Operator Certificate may apply for the call sign within that year, provided that the applicant's province or territory call sign prefix matches the call sign of his area of residence.

1.4.5 Call Sign Reservations

Amateur radio service call signs are not reserved.

Applicants are urged to check the availability of call signs at the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. Web site

<http://www.rac.ca>.

1.5 Club Stations

- 1.5.1 Call signs for club stations will be issued with three-letter suffixes only. Existing two-letter club station call signs will remain valid until the club disbands or the call sign is released.

1.5.2 Sponsor Requirements

The application for a call sign intended to be used by an amateur radio club station must be made by a holder of an Amateur Radio Operator Certificate with Advanced Qualification.

1.6 Automatic Repeater Stations

1.6.1 The application for a call sign intended to be used for an amateur radio automatic radiotelephone communications repeater station operating above 30 MHz and within the same band must be made by a holder of an Amateur Radio Operator Certificate with Advanced Qualification.

1.6.2 The applicant must be the holder of an applicable Morse code qualification if the repeater is to transmit on frequencies below 30 MHz.

1.6.3 A holder of an Amateur Radio Operator Certificate with Basic Qualification may apply for a call sign intended to be used for an amateur radio digital repeater on frequencies above 30 MHz.

2. Call Signs for Special Event

2.1 Eligibility for Consideration

A special prefix assignment may be made to all amateurs in a geographical area for Canadian significant commemorative non-commercial anniversaries or Canadian significant events.

Request should be received at the Amateur Radio Service Centre at least 60 days before the beginning of the proposed event to provide ample time to process the request and allow the Centre to inform the amateur community at least 30 days before the event.

Special event prefixes and call signs are listed in Table 1.

2.2 Definitions

Special call signs and prefixes fall within one of the following categories:

Category I

- (a) National: Special prefixes for all provinces and territories for use by all Canadian amateurs not to exceed two months.
- e.g. All VE3's become CG3, all VE7 become CG7, etc.
- (b) Provincial or territorial: Special prefix for the applicable province/territory for use by Canadian amateurs residing within the applicable province/territory, not to exceed one month.
- e.g. All VE4's become CG4.
- (c) Municipal: Special prefix for the applicable municipality for use by Canadian amateurs residing within the applicable municipality, not to exceed two weeks.
- e.g. All VE1 within the municipality become CG1.
- (d) Organization: Special prefix or call sign for the use of the applicable organization, not to exceed one month.
- All members of the organization that are radio operators can use the special prefix.

Category II

- (a) Individuals or club stations: Specific call signs using a special prefix to be issued to specific stations, not to exceed one month.
- e.g. VE3ABC becomes CG3ABC.

Category III

- (a) Individuals or club stations: Specific call signs to be issued for specific stations using the existing prefix and number but using a different suffix, not to exceed one month.

2.3 Issuance of Special Call Signs

Requests falling within categories I and II (special prefixes are involved) will be accommodated if they meet the following criteria:

For an anniversary, to qualify, it must be a minimum of a 25th or any 25th increment.

For significant events, to qualify, it must be events that are of a historical or cultural nature and are not of a repetitive type.

e.g. the annual local corn roast would not qualify neither would the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto nor the Calgary Stampede, but the Calgary Olympics or the opening of the Confederation Bridge between P.E.I. and New Brunswick would qualify.

Request falling within category III for significant events or anniversaries not covered under categories I and II would be approved on request, provided the proposed suffix is available.

e.g. an amateur radio operator's birthday would not qualify, but the Calgary Stampede or similar events would qualify.

Table I
Special Event Prefixes and Call Signs

Prefixes Provinces and Territories	National, Regional and Municipal Special Event Prefixes				Special Call Signs with <u>normal</u> prefix	Special Call Signs with <u>special</u> prefix
VE1 NS	CG1	CK1	VX1	XM1	VE1	VC1
VA1 NS	CF1	CJ1	VG1	XL1	VA1	VB1
VE2 QC	CG2	CK2	VX2	XM2	VE2	VC2
VA2 QC	CF2	CJ2	VG2	XL2	VA2	VB2
VE3 ON	CG3	CK3	VX3	XM3	VE3	VC3
VA3 ON	CF3	CJ3	VG3	XL3	VA3	VB3
VE4 MB	CG4	CK4	VX4	XM4	VE4	VC4
VA4 MB	CF4	CJ4	VG4	XL4	VA4	VB4
VE5 SK	CG5	CK5	VX5	XM5	VE5	VC5
VA5 SK	CF5	CJ5	VG5	XL5	VA5	VB5
VE6 AB	CG6	CK6	VX6	XM6	VE6	VC6
VA6 AB	CF6	CJ6	VG6	XL6	VA6	VB6
VE7 BC	CG7	CK7	VX7	XM7	VE7	VC7
VA7 BC	CF7	CJ7	VG7	XL7	VA7	VB7
VE8 NT	CG8	CK8	VX8	XM8	VE8	VC8
VE9 NB	CG9	CK9	VX9	XM9	VE9	VC9
VO1 NF	CH1	CY1	XJ1	XN1	VO1	VD1
VO2 LAB	CH2	CY2	XJ2	XN2	VO2	VD2
VY0 NU	CI0	CZ0	XK0	XO0	VY0	VF0
VY1 YT	CI1	CZ1	XK1	XO1	VY1	VF1
VY2 PEI	CI2	CZ2	XK2	XO2	VY2	VF2
CY0 SABLE IS						
CY9 ST-PAUL IS						