



Hong Kong Amateur Radio DX Association

RECOMMENDED CODE OF PRACTICE FOR SATELLITE OPERATORS

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HARDXA DX Operating Etiquette Series
Bulletin No. 2

Hong Kong Amateur Radio DX Association

Recommended Code Of Practice For Satellite Operators

HARDXA DX OPERATING ETIQUETTE SERIES, BULLETIN TWO

This is the second in the series of recommended operating etiquette issued to HARDXA members, what is addressed equally applies to all radio amateurs in general. The information may be amended by HARDXA from time to time to reflect current licensing and operating conditions:

- 1) DON'T!: Radiate any signal until you can hear the satellite as evidenced by the satellite downlink beacon or other satellite users. If you have poor or marginal downlink and a good uplink, as some stations may have, there may be chances that you may be blotting out someone's Dx QSO.
 - 2) DON'T!: Run more than 50 watts ERP to RS or other low orbit satellites, or 100 watts ERP to OSCAR or other high orbit satellites at any time, or you will push decrease the chances of weak stations by bringing down the satellite's AGC by your high power.
 - 3) DON'T!: Call a rare Dx station that you have already worked if others are calling him, or you will reduce other operators chances.
 - 4) DON'T!: Call stations in your own area at satellite horizon times as they have only a few minutes or seconds daily to work distant stations whilst they have most of the satellite orbit to talk to you. This is especially so in the case of low orbit birds.
 - 5) DON'T!: Call CQ incessantly. A short burst is quite enough, then listen; otherwise you will cut back the AGC on the satellite's transponder and drain the satellite's power cells unnecessarily.
 - 6) DON'T!: Re-transmit your own downlink signal feedback. Many stations operating SSB do so using loudspeakers with the AF gain turned up and this creates a horrible sound; use headphones or keep received downlink audio away from the microphone.
 - 7) DO!: Pay more attention to the receiving system. When it is good enough, you will hear the returns from even 100 mw ERP uplinks and hence work a lot more Dx. Run less power. Attention to high gain, narrow beamwidth and less noise on your downlink is cheaper and far more productive than anything else you may do. Remember that a poor quality antenna switch can raise the receiver noise floor because there is not enough isolation between the poles; 1 or 2 S-units can be the reward for having a well isolated switch.
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- 8) DO!: Keep clear of specific frequencies where rare or weak stations are known to be and do not sit there and call CQ; listen carefully.
- 9) DO!: Discourage others from using the satellite uplink/downlink portions of various VHF, UHF and SHF bands for local terrestrial work.
- 10) NEW!: If you are a new operator to the satellite bands, don't just jump straight in, spend some time listening to the QSOs of other operators and gain insight to proper satellite QSO techniques and standards first.