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TELECOMMUNICATIONS LICENSING

POLICY FOR THE ISSUE OF AMATEUR RADIO LICENCES

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Government of South Georgia & The South Sandwich Islands

APRIL 2023



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This policy has been drafted to ensure that the process for obtaining an amateur radio licence within the territory of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands is user-friendly and supports appropriate use of the spectrum. To achieve this, there must be a balance between easy, affordable access and the need for adequate scrutiny and effective record keeping.

## 2 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set out the Government's approach to radio communications licensing.

## 3 MANDATE

The power to issue licences is conferred by:

- 3.1 The Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance (Cap 78)<sup>1</sup> and the Wireless Telegraphy Regulations (Cap 78)<sup>2</sup> as amended by the seven Wireless Telegraphy Amendment Regulations made between 1966 and 1985.<sup>3</sup> , as applied in South Georgia and The South Sandwich Islands by The South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Order 1985.<sup>4</sup>
- 3.2 The Commissioner has published on the Government website<sup>5</sup> versions of the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance (Cap 78) and of the Wireless Telegraphy Regulations (Cap 78) (as amended) that have been adapted and modified to local circumstances and it is these versions of the Ordinance and Regulations that will be used to regulate amateur radio licensing.
- 3.3 The Commissioner is responsible for the implementation and regulation of all amateur radio licences. The Commissioner has delegated the responsibility to issue amateur radio licences to the Chief Executive Officer of the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. The Commissioner and the Chief Executive are supported in their work by the Falkland Islands Communications Regulator and the Attorney General.
- 3.4 All licences will be issued subject to the terms and conditions. When setting those terms and conditions the Chief Executive will have regard to:

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<sup>1</sup> The codified version of Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance 1925 applied in South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands originally when passed and in its codified form from 12 March 1953

<sup>2</sup> The codified version of the Wireless Telegraphy Regulations 1926 applied in South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands originally when made and in its codified form from 12 March 1953

<sup>3</sup> Wireless Telegraphy (Amendment) Regulations 1966, 1968, 1972, 1973, 1979 (x2), and 1985.

<sup>4</sup> S.I. 1985 No. 449

<sup>5</sup> [www.gov.gs](http://www.gov.gs)



- Compliance with applicable law;
- The need to regulate the use of the electromagnetic spectrum;
- The need to regulate and manage users;
- The need to limit the risk of interference;
- The needs of Government in times of emergency;
- National security; and
- Compliance with ITU<sup>6</sup> rules and regulations

#### 4 RELEVANT HISTORY, HISTORIC AND CURRENT CALLSIGNS

##### 4.1 Ofcom recognising and noting that British Antarctic Territory and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

- are separate British Overseas Territories with their own distinct laws and regulations (like the Falkland Islands);
- are sparsely occupied and do not have any permanent populations;
- have strong historic links; and
- their comparative proximity in a part of the world with few landmasses;

has allocated amateur radio callsign prefix VP0 (Victor Papa Zero) to both British Antarctic Territory and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands to issue.

##### 4.2 Given the importance of call-signs as a means to identify both an individual and the governing jurisdiction the Commissioner takes the view that anyone seeking to broadcast from within the territory of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and its territorial waters should consider apply for a South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands amateur radio licence and issued with VP0 call-sign.

##### 4.3 The Commissioner is of the view, like the Falkland Islands Communications Regulator, that Falkland Islands licences (including historic licences issued before 3 October 1985) with VP8 callsigns should be confined to being used within the Falkland Islands and its territorial waters unless their use can be supported in any other jurisdiction under applicable rules and guidance.

#### 5 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The following terms and definitions are used in this policy:

##### 5.1 The Commissioner of South Georgia & The South Sandwich Islands is referred to as “The Commissioner”.

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<sup>6</sup> International Telecommunications Union – a United Nations specialized agency.



- 5.2 The Chief Executive of the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands is referred to as “The Chief Executive”.
- 5.3 The Falkland Islands Communication Regulator is referred to as “The Regulator”.
- 5.4 The Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance (Cap 78) is referred to as “The Ordinance”.
- 5.5 The Wireless Telegraphy Regulations (Cap 78) as amended are referred to as “The Regulations”.
- 5.6 The “Licensee” is the recipient of an Amateur Radio Licence issued by the Chief Executive.
- 5.7 The “Applicant” is the person or representative that has submitted an application to the Chief Executive for a licence.
- 5.8 A “Licence” authorises the Licensee to operate radio communications equipment within the applicable terms and conditions.
- 5.9 The action of authorising and issuing of a licence is referred to as “Licensing.”

## 6 SCOPE

This policy sets out the procedures to be followed for the issuance of amateur radio wireless telegraphy licences on behalf of the Commissioner. Nothing in this policy relates to other wireless telegraphy licences or to amateur radio wireless telegraphy licences outside South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

## 7 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are to:

- 7.1 Balance Government and public interests;
- 7.2 Ensure efficient use of the spectrum; and
- 7.3 Avoid harmful electromagnetic interference.

## 8 LICENCES ISSUED UNDER THIS POLICY

This policy relates to Amateur Radio Licences only.

## 9 LICENCE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All licences are governed by terms and conditions. The general terms and conditions that could apply to all licences are at Annex A.



The Commissioner may, at their discretion, apply special conditions to any licence at point of issue.

## 10 FEES

A fee is payable in respect of amateur radio licences. The current fee is £10 as specified in the Regulations. Payment of the fee does not guarantee that a licence will be issued.

## 11 APPLICATIONS

Anyone wishing to apply for a licence should complete an application form and submit this electronically. A copy of this form is included at Annex B.

Those unable to submit forms electronically may request a paper application from the Regulator.

The Regulator administers the application process on behalf of the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. Applications should therefore be submitted to the Regulator, or to any other Government Officer of SGSSI to whom the Commissioner may delegate the authority to issue licences from time to time.

The Regulator's contact details are:

Communications Regulator  
Falkland Islands Government  
Stanley  
Falkland Islands  
FIQQ1ZZ

Email: [regulator.telecoms@sec.gov.fk](mailto:regulator.telecoms@sec.gov.fk)

Tel: +500 28459

Website: [www.regulatorfi.org.fk](http://www.regulatorfi.org.fk)

## 12 DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The Commissioner may delegate the authority to issue licenses<sup>7</sup>.

Authority is currently delegated to the Office of Chief Executive by virtue of a letter of delegation using the formant shown at Annex C.

## 13 PROCEDURE

Licence Applicants should apply for a licence in the following manner:

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<sup>7</sup> s43 Interpretation and General Law Ordinance 1977 and applied by ACLO 1977



- Obtain an application form from the Regulator, or the SGSSI website at [www.gov.gs](http://www.gov.gs)
- Read the terms and conditions and ensure that you understand the obligations.
- Complete the application form (electronically where possible).
- Submit the completed application form to the Regulator (electronically where possible).
- Pay the licence fee.

Upon receipt of a completed application form and payment of the fee, a determination of the licence will be made.

#### 14 DISTRIBUTION

Licences will normally be issued in electronic format via email to the address provided in the application.

If email service is not possible, this should be stated at the time of application.

#### 15 TYPE AND VALIDITY OF LICENCE

Licences are valid for 5 years, or until otherwise revoked by the Commissioner under paragraph 17. A licensee may apply to the Regulator to have the licence revalidated prior to the expiration date. The act of revalidation will extend the validity of the licence for another 5 years. Those licenses that are not revalidated will expire 5 years from the date of issue. Licences will automatically expire upon the death of the licensee.

The licence template can be found at Annex D.

#### 16 PREFIX ALLOCATION

The UK Office for Communications (Ofcom) manages spectrum use allocation for the Overseas Territories. Ofcom has authorised the Government of SGSSI to issue call signs with the prefix "VP0". All amateur radio licenses issued in SGSSI will contain a 2 or 3-letter call sign suffix commencing with either the character "S" or "G". E.g., an SGSSI call sign will read: VP0 Sx or VP0 Gxx

- 16.1 Applicants for licences may request a particular suffix within the "S" or "G" ranges. The Government cannot guarantee that they will be able to satisfy all requests. Callsigns allocated by the Government of SGSSI will be in the format of three-character prefix and a two or three-character suffix.



16.2 Callsigns will be issued on a first come, first served basis. If no callsign is requested the first available call-sign in the alpha-numeric range will be issued. The Government reserves the right not to issue a call sign, even if it is available.

16.3 The Government reserves the right to allocate a number of call signs, so that qualified individuals employed by, or contracted by, those organisations listed below who wish to use an amateur radio in a personal capacity within the Territory are not required to obtain or hold an individual licence. These organisations are:

- The Government of SGSSI;
- The National Environment Research Council and its subsidiaries, including the British Antarctic Survey; and
- Members of HM Armed Forces serving within the Territory.

16.4 The Government reserves the right to re-issue previously used callsigns but will not re-issue a callsign (subject to 16.5 below) within 5 years of the expiry of the licence for that callsign.

16.5 Upon the death of the Licensee, the Government will not normally consider reassigning the associated call-sign until a reasonable period of time has elapsed. This is because the identity will remain linked with the former Licensee for some time.

16.6 Any Applicant desirous of preserving their use of a particular SGSSI callsign is advised to apply for revalidation well in advance of their old licence expiring.

## 17 VARIATION AND REVOCATION

The Commissioner may vary any of the terms, conditions, provisions or limitations in a radio licence, or revoke the licence either:

- 17.1 At the Commissioner's own discretion; or
- 17.2 At the request of the Chief Executive or Regulator; or
- 17.3 At the request of the Licensee

The Commissioner may revoke the licence in any of the following circumstances:

- 17.4 The licensee has failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the licence.
- 17.5 A change in SGSSI or international law necessitates the revocation.
- 17.6 National security.
- 17.7 Emergency.





## 18 DATA AND RECORD KEEPING

All licence records are held and administered by the Regulator on behalf of SGSSI. The Regulator will retain the following information for all licence types:

- 18.1 A unique serial number.
- 18.2 The name of the Licensee.
- 18.3 The address of the Licensee.
- 18.4 Licensee contact details including telephone number(s) and email address.
- 18.5 The type of licence issued and the corresponding callsign.
- 18.6 The issue date and expiry date.
- 18.7 Details of any special conditions attached to the licence.

## 19 RECIPROCITY

As there is no resident population within the Territories, no reciprocity arrangements shall exist for holders of amateur licences issued in other jurisdictions.

## 20 QUALIFICATION

As there is no mechanism for the provision of training or examination within the Territories, a licence issued by the Applicant's country of residence, or issued by the UK, shall serve as sufficient proof of qualification for a licence application.

## 21 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 21.1 The Commissioner holds the authority to issue, vary and revoke licences. This authority is delegated to the Chief Executive.
- 21.2 The Regulator administers the application process and maintains the database of Licensees on behalf of the Chief Executive.

## 22 REVOCATION AND REVIEW

This policy replaces GSGSSI Policy 01-2021 issued on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021, which is revoked. This policy can be reviewed at anytime but must be reviewed before 31 March 2028.



## ANNEX A

### GENERAL LICENCE CONDITIONS

1. The Licence shall continue in force until the date specified on the licence, [if such a date is specified] or until revoked by the Commissioner or surrendered by the Licensee.
2. The Licence may not be sold or otherwise transferred.
3. The Licence may only be used to operate Radiocommunications Apparatus physically located within the Territory of SGSSI. Possession of a Licence does not grant the Licensee any right to enter the Territory of SGSSI.
4. The Licensee must notify the Regulator if any of the Licensee's personal or contact details change from those recorded on the Licence.
5. The Licensee must ensure that the Radiocommunications Apparatus relevant to each Licence is constructed, established, installed and used only in accordance with the provisions specified in the individual Licence schedules, when provided.
6. The Licensee must ensure that the Radiocommunications Apparatus is used only by persons who have been authorised by the Licensee to do so, and that such persons are made aware of, and of the requirement to comply with, the terms of the Licence.
7. The Licensee shall permit any person authorised by the Commissioner to have access to the Radiocommunications Apparatus; and to inspect the Licence and Radiocommunications Station and Apparatus, to ensure that they are being used in accordance with the terms of the Licence.
8. The Commissioner may require the Radiocommunications Apparatus, or any part thereof, to be modified or restricted in use, or temporarily or permanently closed down immediately.
9. The Licensee must take all proper and adequate safety measures in respect of all Radiocommunications Apparatus operated, maintained or used under the licence, including exposure to any electrical emission or radiation emanating from the Apparatus.
10. The Licensee must take all proper measures to ensure that no message, communication or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an obscene or menacing character is sent from the Radio Communication Apparatus. That is that the language used in the communication is worse than that encountered in everyday life.



ANNEX B

APPLICATION FORM AMATEUR RADIO LICENCE

**All fields must be completed.**

<b>Title</b>				
<b>Forename</b>				
<b>Surname</b>				
<b>Date of Birth</b>				
<b>Nationality</b>				
<b>Passport Number</b>				
<b>Passport Issuing Authority</b>				
<b>Passport Expiry Date</b>				
<b>Usual Address. Include post code / ZIP code and Country</b>				
<b>Contact</b>	Telephone			
	Email			
<b>Licence Type</b>	Lifetime			
	Temporary			
<b>Intended location or locations within South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands where transmissions are intended to be made.</b>				
<b>Existing Callsigns</b> Please list all callsign(s) currently issued to the applicant – if insufficient space here	Callsign			
	Date of Issue			
	Country or Territory of Issue			



please provide details separately				
<b>Invoice Details</b> (if different to applicant details and address)	Name/Company			
	Billing Address			
	Country/Postcode			
	Contact			
	Telephone			
	Email			
<b>Signature</b>				

By signing this form, I confirm that I have read and understood all the notes and that I have not had a previous licence withdrawn or revoked. By submitting this application, I accept that the Government reserves the right not to issue a licence. I certify that any information provided is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge, and that any licence may be revoked in the event of my having submitted false information. I understand and accept that I am responsible for compliance with the licence and control and supervision of the equipment which is the subject of the Amateur Radio Licence.



## ANNEX C

### LETTER OF DELEGATION – LETTER FORMAT

APPLICATION OF COLONY LAWS ORDINANCE<sup>8</sup>  
APPLICATION OF COLONY LAWS ORDINANCE 1977  
INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE 1977 SECTION 43  
SOUTH GEORGIA AND SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS ORDER 1985

DELEGATION OF POWERS AND DUTIES CONTAINED IN THE WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY  
ORDINANCE Cap 78 AND SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS AS APPLIED IN SOUTH GEORGIA  
AND SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS BY SOUTH GEORGIA AND SOUTH SANDWICH  
ISLANDS ORDER 1985 AND APPLICATION OF COLONY LAWS ORDINANCE

I [name of Commissioner] hereby delegate to the holder of the office of Chief Executive of the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands the power and duties to issue wireless telegraphy licences un the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance Cap 78 and Wireless Telegraphy Regulations Cap 78 for use within the Territory.

This delegation is made on the express condition that any decision to refuse or revoke a licence is referred to the Commissioner.

The Chief Executive is obliged to maintain a record of the fees paid for the issuance of a licence and to present such a record to the Commissioner for inspection upon request.

This authority not to be further delegated without the express consent of the Commissioner.

[Signature]

[Name]

[Date]

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<sup>8</sup> In effect from 1 January 1949



ANNEX D

Schedule 1A

**SOUTH GEORGIA AND SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS  
Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance Cap 78**



AMATEUR RADIO STATION LICENCE

Date of Issue		Callsign	VPO Sxx
Renewable	5 Years		
Fee on Issue	£10.00	Fee on Renewal	N/A
Name (The Licensee)		Address	

1. The Licensee is hereby licenced subject to the conditions herein contained:
2. To possess, establish and maintain an amateur transmitting and receiving station for radio communication (hereinafter called "the Station") at

Station Address	
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3. To use the Station for the purpose of transmitting to, and receiving from, other amateur radio stations communications by radio telegraph/telephony:
  - a. Messages in plain language which are remarks about matters of a personal nature in which the Licensee, or the person with whom they are in communication, has been directly concerned.
  - b. Signals (not being in secret code or cypher) which form part of, or relate to, the transmission of such messages.

4. The licensee is subject to the following special conditions:

Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) This licence does not confer any right to enter the Territory of South Georgia or the South Sandwich Islands.</li> <li>b) The licence will be cancelled if there are grounds to believe that the licensee is not competent to operate and has falsely self-certified to the contrary.</li> <li>c) The Licensee must comply with any decisions issued by the Commissioner of South Georgia or the South Sandwich Islands in relation to harmful and undue interference.</li> <li>d) When operating Radio Apparatus, the Licensee shall:           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Only use the frequency bands specified in Annex E, subject to the limitations set out in that Schedule;</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
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	(ii) Take account of any other limitations set out in Annex E which apply to the class of licence held by the Licensee.
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Issued on behalf of the Commissioner

Signed [date, signature & stamp]

ANNEX E

1.1. The Licensee shall be permitted to operate the Radio Equipment using the frequency bands set out in Table A of this schedule.

**Table A – Applicable Limitations for the Licence.**

1.2. The frequency bands or sub-bands and associated powers listed below have been agreed by the Communications Regulator on behalf of the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Government, for use by the amateur radio use within South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands.

Frequency Bands (MHz)	Status of Allocations	Status of allocations to the Amateur Satellite Service	Maximum Peak Envelope Power in Watts (and dB relative to 1 Watt)
0.1357-0.1378	Secondary	Not allocated	1W (0 dBW) e.r.p
0.4720-0.4790	Secondary	Not allocated	5W (7dBW) e.i.r.p
1.800-1.850	Primary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
1.850-2.000	Secondary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
3.500-4.000	Primary – Shared	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
5.3515-5.3665	Secondary	Not allocated	25W (14dBW) e.i.r.p
7.000-7.100	Primary	Primary	1000W (30dBW)
7.100-7.200	Primary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
7.200-7.300	Primary – Shared	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
10.100-10.150	Secondary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
14.000-14.250	Primary	Primary	1000W (30dBW)
14.250-14.350	Primary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)



<b>Frequency Bands (MHz)</b>	<b>Status of Allocations</b>	<b>Status of allocations to the Amateur Satellite Service</b>	<b>Maximum Peak Envelope Power in Watts (and dB relative to 1 Watt)</b>
18.068-18.168	Primary	Primary	1000W (30dBW)
21.000-21.450	Primary	Primary	1000W (30dBW)
24.890-24.990	Primary	Primary	1000W (30dBW)
28.000-29.700	Primary	Primary	1000W (30dBW)
50.000-54.000	Primary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
70.000-70.500	Secondary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
144.000-146.000	Primary	Primary	1000W (30dBW)
146.000-148.000	Primary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
220.000-225.000	Primary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
430.000-432.000	Secondary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
432.000-438.000	Secondary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
435.000-438.000		Secondary	1000W (30dBW)
438.000-440.000	Secondary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
902.000-928.000	Secondary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
1,240-1,260	Secondary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
1,260-1,270	Secondary	Secondary	1000W (30dBW)
1,270-1,300	Secondary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
2,300-2,450	Secondary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
3,300-3,600	Secondary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)





<b>Frequency Bands (MHz)</b>	<b>Status of Allocations</b>	<b>Status of allocations to the Amateur Satellite Service</b>	<b>Maximum Peak Envelope Power in Watts (and dB relative to 1 Watt)</b>
5,650-5,670	Secondary	Secondary – Earth to Space only	1000W (30dBW)
5,670-5,725	Secondary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
5,725-5,830	Secondary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
5,830-5,850	Secondary	Secondary – Space to Earth only	1000W (30dBW)
5,850-5,925	Secondary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
10,000-10,450	Secondary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
10,450-10,500	Secondary	Secondary	1000W (30dBW)
24,000-24,050	Primary	Primary	1000W (30dBW)
24,050-24,250	Secondary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
47,000-47,200	Primary	Primary	1000W (30dBW)
76,000-77,500	Secondary	Secondary	1000W (30dBW)
77,500-78,000	Primary	Primary	1000W (30dBW)
78,000-81,000	Secondary	Secondary	1000W (30dBW)
122,250-123,000	Secondary	Not allocated	1000W (30dBW)
134,000-136,000	Primary	Primary	1000W (30dBW)
136,000-141,000	Secondary	Secondary	1000W (30dBW)
241,000-248,000	Secondary	Secondary	1000W (30dBW)
248,000-250,000	Primary	Primary	1000W (30dBW)