



Amateur Radio Education

Summerland Amateur Radio Club Regulations exam study guide

There is no course
Self study required

The regulations exam questions are derived from sections 1 & 2 and parts of sections 9 & 10 of the Standard syllabus. SARC Education does not have a Regulations course. This guide and associated summaries should assist a candidate to prepare for the exam. Preparation is largely a matter of memorising certain material and gaining an understanding of other material by reading. Much of the subject matter simply clarifies operating practices and procedures that should be familiar to anyone holding and using Foundation level qualifications. Download the following resources:

Regulations study guide resources:

Please download the following resources that are referenced in this document.

SARC:

(soon to be available from the SARC web page) <https://sarc.org.au/education/>

Regulations exam study guide – This document

Emission codes

Phonetic alphabet

Regulations exam callsign policy

Regulations exam amateur bands

ACMA:

Standard Syllabus: The regulations syllabus (for standard or advanced qualifications) is included.

[https://www.acma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-02/ACMA_recognition_certificate_\(Standard\)_Syllabus_and_examination_information.pdf](https://www.acma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-02/ACMA_recognition_certificate_(Standard)_Syllabus_and_examination_information.pdf)

Class Licence page: The ACMA homepage for amateur radio.

<https://www.acma.gov.au/amateur-class-licence>

Operating page: This page contains most of the basic operating information required.

<https://www.acma.gov.au/amateur-radio-operating-procedures>

Resource page: This page provides links to other amateur radio related information.

<https://www.acma.gov.au/amateur-radio-resources>

Callsign policy document: A 28 page document on call sign policy.

https://www.acma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-09/Amateur%20radio%20call%20sign%20policy_September%202024.pdf

Standard Syllabus It includes the Standard and Advanced Regulations syllabus

[https://www.acma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-02/ACMA_recognition_certificate_\(Standard\)_Syllabus_and_examination_information.pdf](https://www.acma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-02/ACMA_recognition_certificate_(Standard)_Syllabus_and_examination_information.pdf)

Federal Legislation:

Radiocommunications (Amateur Stations) Class Licence 2023: The rule book.

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2023L01648/latest/text>

Radiocommunications Licence Conditions (Amateur Licence) Determination 2025

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2025L01087/asmade>

WIA:

<https://www.wia.org.au/members/bandplans/data/>

The latest band plan updated February 2026

RASA:

https://vkradioamateurs.org/#book1_1

The VKRegs book

Approach to study:

The regulations material should be treated in three ways.

Some of the regulations material needs to be memorised.

Some need to be studied until a working understanding is achieved.

Some large ACMA documents are referenced. Little other than their existence is required.

If you only have the time or memory capacity to concentrate on one document; then make it the ACMA “Amateur Radio Operating Procedures” web page. It’s the equivalent of 9 pages of A4 but it touches lightly on much of the subject matter. The other documents provide you with the depth of knowledge required by the syllabus.

1. Memorise. You need to remember the emission codes, Phonetic Alphabet and the Q Codes. This information is found on the ACMA “Amateur Radio Operating Procedures web page”. The Three tables have been extracted and are available as SARC documents:

Emission modes – Regulations exam emission codes V01 – 13FEB2026

Phonetic alphabet – Regulations exam phonetics V01-13FEB2026

Q codes – Regulations exam Q codes and prosigns V01-13FEB2026

2. Working understanding. Remembering the entire Class Licence document (34 pages) and LCD (22 pages) is beyond most of us. But if you study them and develop a basic understanding of its contents then you should be well placed to answer questions. SARC Ed has produced a summary of key points and associated them with the syllabus in the next section of this document. The complex areas of Amateur call signs and bands have been summarised in separate documents.

Call signs – Regulations exam call sign policy V01-13FEB2026

Amateur Bands – Regulations exam amateur bands V01-14FEB2026

Amateur Operating procedures – Study the operating procedures laid out on the ACMA Amateur Radio Operating Procedures web page. It's a mixture of common sense, logic and convention.

3. Know they exist. The documents below form the legal basis on which Radiocommunications, including Amateur Radio exists in Australia. These documents are large and linked to Amateur Radio licence and many other radio services. You need to know they exist but little more. Their URLs have not been supplied. Find them and download them if you wish.

Radiocommunications Act 1992

– 486 pages with no mention of Amateur Radio

Australian Communications and Media Authority Act 2025

– 79 pages with no mention of Amateur Radio

Radiocommunications Licence Conditions (Transmitter Licence) Determination 2025

– 14 pages with no mention of Amateur Radio

Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan 2021

– 214 pages that definitively list all Australian Amateur Radio allocations over 48 pages

The WIA band plan is not the legal reference for amateur radio bands but it presents the same information and much more in an easier to read format.

The syllabus:

The Regulations exam is based on Standard exam syllabus parts parts 1 and 2 and on portions of parts 9 and 10. SARC Ed has summarised key points for each item in the syllabus.

Syllabus Part 1 Nature of amateur radio

1.1 Nature of amateur radio

Amateur Radio is a **hobby**, for **technical experiments, self education, talking to other amateur stations**. It requires qualifications and a licence. No pecuniary interest or entertainment.

1.2 Types of licences

Radio transmitters require an individual Licence or a Class Licence. Normal amateur radio activity is authorised under the Radiocommunications (Amateur Stations) Class Licence under the Radiocommunications Act. Amateur radio transmitters such as Repeaters or Beacons with assigned frequencies are authorised under the Amateur Radio Licence Condition Determination.

1.3 Allocation of frequency bands

Amateurs operate on frequencies and bands of frequencies including the amateur satellite service. The amateur radio service is one of many radio services including Land Mobile, CB and Marine. Under normal circumstances amateurs are not authorised to talk to other services.

Amateur services operate on frequency bands allocated to amateur radio. The bands may be for exclusive amateur use or shared with other services. Primary users have priority use of the band. All secondary services must operate without causing **Harmful Interference** to primary users. Harmful Interference is a defined term.

Syllabus Part 2 Licence Conditions

2.1 Licence Conditions

Amateur radio in Australia is authorised and subject to:

Radio Communications Act 1992

Radio Communications (Amateur Stations) Class Licence 2023

Radio Communications Licence Conditions (Amateur Licence) Determination 2025

And special conditions printed on the licence.

Special conditions for a Club station include keeping a log book and operating as a station that equates to the qualifications of the operator at the time.

2.2 Purpose of amateur radio

Amateur radio is authorised:

As a hobby.

For self training.

Intercommunication between amateurs.

Experimentation.

Music or other forms of entertainment are unlikely to fit into any of the above categories.

Recall that there can not be any pecuniary interest in your operation.

2.3 Communications by amateur stations

Except in relation to a distress or emergency situation, or participating in emergency services operations or training exercises, the Amateur Class Licence only authorises amateur-to-amateur communications. No other services; including CB, Marine, and Land Mobile services

2.4 Third party traffic

Third party traffic relates to passing messages from a person who is not an amateur radio operator. Must not solicit for 3rd party traffic except in an emergency. The message cannot relate to financial or commercial affairs.

Particular conditions apply to the transmission of messages on behalf of a third party or messages to amateurs in another country. International third party traffic agreements are difficult to find.

2.5 Distress and urgency traffic

Read and understand the Distress and safety procedures section of the ACMA web page **Amateur Radio Operating Procedures**.

Emergency signals consist of Distress and Urgency signals.

Questions sometimes take the form: "Is Mayday a Distress signal or an Urgency signal"

Know the hierarchy of the words:

Emergency message is an umbrella term to cover both Distress and Urgency messages.

Distress (MAYDAY & SOS) and is used when there is "Grave & imminent danger to life and property.

Urgency (PANPAN & XXX) and is used when a Distress call is not fully justified.

An amateur radio operator is obliged to accept distress traffic.

"With greater privilege comes greater responsibility"

2.6 Station identification

Identify station by transmitting callsign at the beginning and end of a transmission or series of transmissions and every 10 minutes in between. This includes a test transmission or series of test transmissions. The only exception is during emergency services operation or training where the transmission or series of transmissions exceeds 30 minutes – once every 30 minutes.

2.7 Amateur call signs

Study the SARC document Regulations exam call sign policy V01-13FEB2026.

2.8 Secret messages

Secret messages cannot be sent unless in an emergency or training for an emergency. CW, RTTY etc are not secret codes as they are in the public domain.

2.9 Amateur frequency bands and emissions

Study the SARC documents:

Regulations exam amateur bands V01-14FEB2026

Regulations exam emission codes V01 – 13FE

2.10 Permitted power output

Maximum power for each grade is:

Licence	Py (mean power eg. FM)	Px (peak envelope power e.g. SSB)
Foundation	10 Watts	10 Watts
Standard	30 Watts	100 Watts
Advanced	120 Watts	400 Watts

Note that The Standard and Advanced Px and Py power levels are mathematically consistent. The Py value for the Foundation level is a realistic value rather than mathematically consistent.

2.11 Notification of change of details

Notify the ACMA of a change of address within 4 months or 7 days if a repeater or beacon.

2.12 Harmful interference

Harmful interference includes interference to broadcast radio and television signals. If you cause harmful interference you must cease transmitting immediately and find a solution.

2.13 Authorised use of amateur stations

Only people with suitable qualifications may operate a station

2.14 Other users

An amateur may authorise another suitably qualified person (another amateur) to operate their station within the limits of their licence. A person without an amateur licence can communicate via an amateur radio station provided that the station is under the full control of a qualified operator.

2.15 Not to be used for financial gain

An amateur station cannot be used for financial gain or reward.

2.16 The ACMA may obtain information or documents

The ACMA has the power to request information from an amateur, including producing evidence of their qualification.

2.17 Restriction of operation to avoid interference

The ACMA has the right to restrict the operation of an amateur station to avoid harmful interference.

2.18 Use of the Amateur Class Licence and Amateur LCD

The Amateur Class Licence and the Amateur LCD contain specific licence conditions for operating an amateur station.

An amateur station must not transmit advertising, music or entertainment.

An amateur station must not make a transmission that “seriously affronts a reasonable person”.

Syllabus Part 9 Operating practices and procedures

9.2 Authorised frequencies and emissions (similar to syllabus section 2.9)

It's important to remember that the Amateur **BANDS** and the emissions that can be used on those bands are legally binding and set out in the Amateur Radio Class Licence and LCD documents.

In particular note the restriction on wide-band emissions on particular bands. Note the general “1 Watt per 100 kHz” limitation that enables low power wide spectrum emissions to be used.

Distinguish this information from the **Band PLANS**. These are informal documents that detail preferred practice within each band. These voluntary agreements assist in the orderly use of the bands. Adherence to the band plans is highly recommended but not obligatory.

Study the SARC documents:

Regulations exam amateur bands V01-14FEB2026

Regulations exam emission codes V01 – 13FEB2026

9.3 Requirement not to transmit on frequencies in use

There is a requirement to listen on a frequency before transmitting to ensure that interference will not be caused to other stations using the frequency.

9.10 Recognised abbreviations

Memorise the SARC document Regulations exam Q codes and prosigns

9.11 Phonetic alphabet

Memorise SARC document Regulations exam phonetics

Syllabus Part 10 Safety

10.3 Awareness of State Electricity Authority requirements

The requirements regarding unqualified people wiring and testing mains operated equipment varies from state to state. This includes leads, plugs and sockets connected to the household mains supply. Amateur radio qualifications do not give you additional qualifications to carry out this work.

Working at heights

Your amateur radio qualifications do not give you additional qualifications to work at heights.

10.22 Station security

An operable Amateur station must not be accessible to unauthorised persons.
No method of making the station inoperable or inaccessible is specified.