

## **From the NZART Administration Liaison Officer...**

The New Zealand Administration, the Ministry of Economic Development, Radio Spectrum Management, has been working on a new callsign database system, the Spectrum Management and Registration Technology (SMART) project. It is expected to soon start to become live in several stages. Procedures for amateur radio licensing are expected to change at some time during this process.

The Ministry's document setting the formats and other details for amateur radio callsigns is outdated and needs renovation and amendment to include outcomes from the WRC-2003 conference. The essentials of the current document can be seen in an appendix in the "Regulations" part of "The New Zealand Amateur Radio Study Guide" on the NZART web site at [www.nzart.org.nz](http://www.nzart.org.nz)

The document on the following pages is a DRAFT, an update in which many changes needed have been included. Words shown in "square brackets" [ ] are matters that require further consideration because the present position is subject to change or incomplete. You are invited to review the draft document and send comments to the NZART Administration Liaison Officer at: [zl2amj@nzart.org.nz](mailto:zl2amj@nzart.org.nz). It would assist and be appreciated if comments could be received by Thursday 20 October.

Please note that the decisions on what is finally included and what changes are ultimately adopted are solely those of the Administration.

**[ Third DRAFT Includes:**

*Removal of Limited and Novice grades*

*Changes arising from WRC-03 added*

*Radio Districts removed.*

*The existing approval for E series allocations by AREC is added.*

*Clarification of the need for a natural person to be Trustee for a Club station*

*More than one licence/callsign may be held by an individual. ]*

## **AMATEUR CALLSIGNS**

### **BACKGROUND**

All amateur radio operators are required to use a callsign when operating amateur radio equipment in New Zealand (see Schedule 3 attached to the amateur operator licence, paragraph 2).

Callsigns are held in a database maintained for the purpose by the Radio Spectrum Management Group of the Ministry of Economic Development. Each allocated callsign is specific to the licence to which it is issued. The database is available for public viewing by the internet.

This document refers only to amateur operator licences and their callsigns. Repeater, Beacon and Link stations may or may not require a callsign and are treated on a case-by-case basis but follow these same general principles.

### **AUTHORITY**

Radiocommunications Act 1989

Radiocommunications Regulations 2001, Schedule 1 and Amendments.

Article 19 and Article 25 (**RR25.9**) of the International Radio Regulations.

### **PROCEDURE**

Callsigns will generally adhere to a standard format. However the Radio Spectrum Management Group recognises that from time to time there will be special events or occasions when it is appropriate to provide short term variations to the standard.

### **STANDARD CALLSIGNS**

#### **A. GENERAL**

The [local Field Office] processes applications for callsigns, specific callsigns, or change of callsign.

Applicants should be advised that:

1. Callsigns may not be reserved and will be issued on first-come, first-served basis.
2. The examination requirement means that an amateur licence cannot be held by an entity other than a natural person. An Amateur Operator licence and a callsign will be issued only to natural persons who have attained and hold the appropriate examination qualification.
3. A Branch or Club station licence requires one or more Trustees to be named as the licensee on behalf of the Branch or Club. This clearly identifies who takes responsibility for the station and the use of its callsign.
4. Once a callsign has been cancelled it may not be re-allocated for a period of 1 year. This restriction will not apply in cases where:
  - the re-allocation of a deceased amateur operator's callsign is to a family member (subject to that person having a suitable qualification) or,
  - to a club with which the deceased amateur had close ties, or,
  - to reinstate it to the individual who held it immediately prior to the cancellation.
5. Requests for callsigns currently held by licensed amateurs or clubs will generally not be considered unless there is written agreement between the interested parties.
6. Callsigns should generally follow the numbering system ZL1 to ZL4.
7. Callsigns from the ZL5 – ZL0 callsign series shall be allocated only where the amateur will be operating from the following locations:
  - ZL5 Antarctica
  - ZL6 Special stations approved by NZART
  - ZL7 Chatham Islands
  - ZL8 Kermadec Islands
  - ZL9 Auckland Islands and Campbell Islands
  - ZL0 Reserved
8. Callsign requests should be made in order of preference. The first available choice is the one that will be allocated.

## **B. CALLSIGN ALLOCATION**

### **Operator Licence Callsigns**

Callsigns may be selected from the following series while noting that combinations of characters that may be seen as words offensive or in bad taste by some listeners may not be allocated. Callsigns making other significant words such as "ARRL", "RSGB", "JOTA", "KIWI", "NATO", etc. may be required by special interest groups etc and the decision for allocation or to reserve or withhold will be that of the licensing officer based on policy and consultation at the time.

ZL1 - ZL4    AA - DZ  
                   FA - WZ

AAA - DZZ

FAA - PZZ

RAA - WZZ

YAA - ZZZ

AAAA - DZZZ

FAAA - ZZZZ

Callsigns from the following series are not to be allocated for the reasons given:

ZL1 - ZL4

EA – EZ, EAA – EZZ and EAAA - EZZZ Used by Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) during exercises and emergencies. Allocation for these tasks is made to already-licensed amateur operators by the Manager AREC as operational circumstances require.

QAA - QZZ Possible confusion with Q Codes.

XA - XZ Reserved

XAA - XZZ Reserved

YA - ZZ Possible confusion with AM Broadcast Stations

The suffix SOS will not be allocated.

### **Multiple callsigns**

An amateur operator may hold more than one licence and hence more than one callsign. A typical case would be where the callsign of a deceased family member is being held by another qualified operator meantime for another family member yet to become qualified. There are other and operational reasons for more than one licence/callsign to be held.

No reason need be given by an applicant for an additional callsign. However, an applicant should be advised that in the Amateur Service a callsign is synonymous with the holder's name and to actively use more than one callsign could be seen as unnecessary and be confusing. The hoarding of callsigns is contrary to the spirit and intentions of the Amateur Service and is not encouraged.

### **Shortened Callsigns**

1. The callsign shall be in the form ZL (1,2,3 or 4)(one letter) or ZM (1,2,3 or 4)(one letter) e.g. ZL2B or ZM1A, so a limited few are possible.

2. These will be allocated only to Clubs or Branches taking part in a radio contest of worldwide interest in which participation by New Zealand operators will promote New Zealand.

3. They shall be issued only to a group entering the contest under the sponsorship of a Club or Branch.

4. They will be licensed for the published operating period of the contest only.

5. More than one organised group may obtain a shortened callsign for the same contest.

6. All applications must be made in adequate time to allow processing. They should be made through the [appropriate Field Office] and must include:

The name of the proposed trustees of the special licence  
 The trustee's qualification/licence status  
 The operating location  
 The name and dates of the contest.

7. A shortened callsign, once allocated, is not to be regarded as "being held" [by Radio Spectrum Management Group] for reuse by the same group of contest operators in future events.

As exceptions to these rules and recognising the distinctive role that the NZART Headquarters station plays, a permanent allocation of the callsign ZL6A has been approved for that station. Similarly, for operational reasons and for world-wide callsign consistency, the callsign ZL6B has been permanently allocated to a multi-band HF beacon station.

### **Special Event callsigns and the ZM prefix**

Callsigns other than those normally allocated to an amateur station may be allocated to a group or club station involved in events where national identity is of national or international significance. This can involve the allocation of special suffixes and could include the especially-significant prefix ZM for the period of the event or celebration. The following conditions will apply to the allocation of these callsigns:

1. Requests for such callsigns are to be referred to [the Licensing Manager] for approval. Approval cannot be guaranteed.
2. The prefix ZM is primarily reserved as an optional and significant replacement for the prefix ZL for all New Zealand amateur operator licensees for an approved and officially-announced set period to recognise a significant national New Zealand event such as the Commonwealth Games. It may however, subject to the approval of [the Licensing Manager], be used as an especially significant identifier for a special station for a short defined period for once-only events.
3. A special event callsign may have a suffix longer than four characters but the final character must be a letter.
4. Where the callsign requested does not fit the normal template, the callsign construction must be such that it cannot be mistaken for another class of station, i.e. callsign ZM2000 would not be allocated as it is the format for a ship station callsign.
5. Again, any combination of long-suffix characters that may be seen as a word offensive or in bad taste by some listeners or having some other significance will not be allocated.
6. The application must include the reason for the request, the period that the group/branch wishes to operate, the operating location and the name of the Trustee.

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*15 Oct 05*