

NEWS RELEASE
International Amateur Radio Union
International Secretariat
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2 May 2001

For immediate release

ITU Disaster Communications Documents Approved

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) announces the approval by the International Telecommunication Union Development Sector (ITU-D) of two landmark documents related to amateur radio disaster communications in developing countries. These documents represent the culmination of two years of work by the IARU and ITU-D Study Group 2 chaired by Nabil Kisrawi of Syria.

The first is Recommendation ITU-D 13, *Effective utilisation of the amateur services in disaster mitigation and relief operations*. It recommends that administrations include the amateur services in their national disaster plans, reduce barriers to effective use of the amateur services for disaster communications, and develop memoranda of understanding (MoU) with amateur and disaster relief organisations. ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau Director Hamadoun I. Touré announced the approval of Recommendation ITU-D 13 on 12 April. It will be available in English, French, and Spanish from the ITU bookshop at www.itu.int.

The second, now being finalised for printing, is the *Disaster Communications Handbook for Developing Countries*. This was a joint effort of the IARU and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) with contributions from L.M. Ericsson (Sweden), Volunteers in Technical Assistance (VITA) (USA), and others. The Handbook, to be published in English, French and Spanish, will have three parts devoted to policy, operational and technical considerations of disaster communications. It is one of a series of Handbooks being produced by the ITU-D under the coordination of Maurice Ghazal of Lebanon for use by developing countries. The Handbook is scheduled for printing this year and will be available from the ITU bookshop.

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23 August 2001

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ITU ADOPTS RECOMMENDATION ON AMATEUR QUALIFICATIONS

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has adopted new Recommendation ITU-R M.1544, *Minimum qualifications of radio amateurs*. In consideration that certain minimum operational and technical qualifications are necessary for the proper operation of an amateur or amateur-satellite station, the document recommends that at minimum, any person seeking an amateur license should demonstrate theoretical knowledge of specific topics in the areas of radio regulations, methods of radiocommunication, radio system theory, radio emission safety, electromagnetic compatibility, and avoidance and resolution of radio frequency interference.

"The international Radio Regulations have long required that administrations take such measures as they judge necessary to verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate an amateur station," observed International Amateur Radio Union Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ. "In anticipation of changes that are likely to be made in the amateur and amateur-satellite service regulations at the next World Radiocommunication Conference, the new Recommendation provides additional definition to these qualifications without reducing the prerogative of an administration to set its own standards."

M.1544 represents part of a multi-year effort by the International Amateur Radio Union to prepare for the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03) agenda item to consider possible revision of Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations. This work was begun in 1996 with the release for public comment of a discussion paper by the IARU Future of the Amateur Service Committee (FASC). The final report of FASC in 1998 recommended that the IARU Administrative Council plan the development of such a Recommendation. The first draft text was submitted by the Radio Society of Great Britain to the 1999 Conference of IARU Region 1 in Lillehammer, Norway, and was subsequently refined by the Administrative Council and the 2000 Conference of IARU Region 3 in Darwin, Australia. IARU representatives guided the consideration of the Recommendation through ITU-R Working Party 8A, Study Group 8 and consultation with administrations, which resulted in additional refinements. The final version of the Recommendation was approved by the ITU administrations without objection.

"Having this Recommendation makes it possible to maintain an ITU document on amateur radio operator qualifications under cognizance of an ITU-R Study Group rather than the more

cumbersome process of modifying Article S25 of the Radio Regulations," said IARU President Larry E. Price, W4RA. "The establishment of uniform minimum qualifications for amateur radio operators should help mutual recognition of amateur licenses for international roaming and particularly for cross-border movement of amateur operators for disaster communications."

ITU Recommendations are available from the ITU electronic bookshop: <http://ecs.itu.ch/cgi-bin/ebookshop>.

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8 October 2001

For immediate release

WRC-2003 Dominates Discussion at IARU Council Meeting

The Administrative Council of the International Amateur Radio Union met on 6-8 October 2001 in Guatemala City, Guatemala, following the 14th General Assembly of IARU Region 2. The principal business at the Guatemala City meeting was to continue preparations for WRC-2003, which has several items of importance to the amateur services on its agenda.

At its Guatemala City meeting the Administrative Council took the following actions:

1. The status of IARU preparations for WRC-2003 was reviewed. The agenda items of concern include harmonization of amateur and broadcasting allocations near 7 MHz, adequacy of HF broadcasting allocations below 10 MHz, possible revision of Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations, changes to terms and definitions in Article S1 as a result of amendments to Article S25, review of provisions concerning the formation of amateur call signs in Article S19, additional allocations for Little LEO satellites, study of a possible allocation to the earth exploration-satellite service for synthetic aperture radars (SARs) near 435 MHz, and possible identification of globally harmonized frequency bands for use by agencies and organizations dealing with public protection (such as police) and disaster relief. IARU objectives with regard to these agenda items were affirmed.

2. The IARU Council adopted the following resolution:

Considering the approval without opposition of ITU-R Recommendation M.1544, which sets out the minimum qualifications of radio amateurs,

recognizing that the Morse code continues to be an effective and efficient mode of communication used by many thousands of radio amateurs, but

further recognizing that the position of Morse as a qualifying criterion for an HF amateur license is no longer relevant to the healthy future of amateur radio,

resolves that

1. member societies are urged to seek, as an interim measure, Morse code testing speeds not exceeding five words per minute;

2. setting aside any previous relevant decisions, IARU policy is to support the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz.
3. The ITU meetings at which IARU representation will be required for the coming year were identified, and the recommendations of the President and International Secretariat with regard to representatives to attend these meetings were reviewed.
4. The present and anticipated future requirements for radio spectrum allocations to the amateur and amateur-satellite services were reviewed, updated and approved.
5. The budget for 2002-2004 was adopted as submitted by the International Secretariat. The budget includes provision for financial contributions from the three regional organizations to defray a portion of the expenses.
6. The theme for World Amateur Radio Day, 18 April 2002, was selected as "Amateur Radio: Continuing Innovation in Communication Technology."
7. Preparations for IARU participation in upcoming ITU regional and world TELECOMs and Forums were reviewed.
8. The Council considered the ongoing discussions of reform of the ITU structure and agreed to continue to monitor these deliberations with regard to any changes affecting amateur radio.
9. The Council noted the growing popularity of the IARU HF World Championship and urged Headquarters Stations of member-societies to participate. The Council also urged the members of the regional executive committees to take part on an individual basis.
10. The Council received with thanks a report from the International Secretariat on new technologies being introduced in the amateur service and expressed appreciation for the contributions of the individuals responsible for these exciting developments.
11. Reports of IARU international coordinators and advisers were received. Retiring Beacon Project Coordinator Bob Fabry, N6EK, was thanked for his work.
12. Retiring Region 2 President Tom Atkins, VE3CDM, was applauded for his distinguished contributions to the work of the IARU and the Administrative Council during his 18 years of service as an officer of Region 2.
13. The next scheduled meeting of the Council will be held on 11-13 September 2002, in the vicinity of San Marino, immediately before the Conference of IARU Region 1.

Attending the meeting were IARU President Larry Price, W4RA; Vice President David Wardlaw, VK3ADW; Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ; regional representatives Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, Tom Atkins, VE3CDM, Rod Stafford, W6ROD, Ron Szama, LU2AH, Fred Johnson, ZL2AMJ, and Y. S. Park, HL1IFM; and recording secretary Paul Rinaldo, W4RI.

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16 November 2001

For immediate release

Pitcairn Island Admitted to IARU

Voting has been completed on a proposal to admit the Pitcairn Island Amateur Radio Association (PIARA) as a member of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). PIARA has been notified of its admission effective 16 November 2001.

PIARA is an independent non-profit organization to promote and develop amateur radio friendship, technical knowledge, and communication technology, providing public service and furthering the public interest, plus fostering international goodwill. It has 10 members, representing the entire population of resident amateur operators. PIARA reports that there are 23 amateurs licensed to operate including several temporary residents and visitors, plus one club station. Amateur Radio has special significance on Pitcairn Island, as it continues to provide the main communications link to the outside world.

Pitcairn Islands (including Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie, and Oeno Islands) is an overseas territory of the United Kingdom. The application for IARU membership by PIARA is supported by the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB). Due to transport difficulties from and to Pitcairn, PIARA has requested that the RSGB continue to represent PIARA at IARU Region 3 Conferences.

The official address of PIARA is: P.O. Box 88, Adamstown, Pitcairn Island, South Pacific Ocean via New Zealand.

The IARU, founded in 1925, is a worldwide federation of national amateur radio societies with members in 151 countries and separate territories.
