



Transfer of amateur radio call signs

Policy statement

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Section 1

Introduction

General call sign allocation policy

- 1.1 This document describes the circumstances under which Ofcom will consider transferring a call sign from one radio amateur to another.
- 1.2 According to ITU Regulations “All stations open to international public correspondence, all amateur stations, and other stations which are capable of causing harmful interference beyond the boundaries of the territory or geographical area in which they are located, shall have call signs from the international series allocated to its administration as given in the Table of Allocation of International Call Sign Series.”
- 1.3 Within the hierarchical structure of call sign allocations granted by the ITU, the UK allocates blocks of these call signs to the various radio services (including the amateur radio service) in accordance with formats specified in the ITU Radio regulations.
- 1.4 Once issued, the amateur radio call sign is permanently associated with the individual concerned and is not re-issued. An individual’s call sign will only be changed under exceptional circumstances. Similarly, the transfer of a call sign from one radio amateur to another is not normally permitted except under exceptional circumstances.
- 1.5 Should a radio amateur allow their licence to lapse, their call sign will be re-instated if they subsequently choose to renew their licence.
- 1.6 Call signs are a finite resource and remain the property of Ofcom.

Section 2

Transfer of amateur radio call signs

Consent to transfer the call sign

- 2.1 Ofcom will transfer a call sign from one radio amateur to another radio amateur providing that the call sign holder consents to the transfer.
- 2.2 Ofcom will require a letter of instruction from the call sign holder as evidence of consent.
- 2.3 Ofcom will also transfer a call sign from a deceased radio amateur to another radio amateur.
- 2.4 Ofcom will require a letter of instruction from the call sign holder's executor (or administrator) as evidence of consent.

Other requirements

- 2.5 Ofcom will only transfer the call sign if the recipient is entitled to hold a licence of an equal class or of a higher class to the donor.

Section 3

Fees

- 3.1 The fee for an amateur radio licence is currently £15 but this may change as a result of changes to the WT (Licence Charges) Regulations.

Section 4

Contacting Ofcom

Application to transfer an amateur radio call sign

4.1 Requests to reassign an amateur radio call sign should be made in writing to:

Ofcom Licensing Centre
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

4.2 Ofcom's Licensing Service Centre can also be contacted by telephone on 020 7981 3040.