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| **Public Consultation** |
| **Amateur Radio** |
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| **Commencement Date: 18 October 2015**  **Response Date: 19 November 2015** |

Preface and Notes to Potential Respondents

TRA Regulations “Amateur Radio Service”, Version 1.0” dated 5 August 2009 sets the technical rules for authorization of Amateur Radio in the UAE. In keeping with its values of transparency and sector engagement, the TRA wishes to consult on these regulations and proposed changes.

The purpose of this document is to invite comments from any organizations that would be impacted by the proposed changes in this document, which the TRA will then consider prior to making a final decision.

All concerned should respond to this consultation in writing to the TRA on or before the response date stated on the front cover of this document. The comments which are contained in any response to this consultation should be clearly identified with respect to the specific question in this consultation to which such comments refer. Any comments which are of a general nature and not in response to a particular question should be clearly identified as such.

Responses to this consultation should be made in writing and provided electronically in MS Word format, on or before the response date stated on the front cover of this document. Responses must be accompanied by the full contacts details (contact name, e-mail address and phone and fax numbers) of the respondent to:

[**spectrumconsultation@tra.gov.ae**](mailto:spectrumconsultation@tra.gov.ae)

Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

P.O. Box 26662

Abu Dhabi, UAE

Respondents are advised that it will be the general intention of the TRA to publish in full the responses received to this consultation. Additionally, the TRA may, at its discretion generate and publish a “Summary of Responses” document at the conclusion of this consultation. Accordingly, the Summary of Responses may include references to and citations (in whole or in part) of comments which have been received. The TRA recognizes that certain responses may include commercially sensitive and confidential information which the respondent may not wish to be published. In the event that a response contains confidential information, it shall be the responsibility of the respondent to clearly mark any information which is considered to be of a confidential nature.

In any event the respondent shall be required to submit two versions of its response to the TRA as follows:

* A full copy of its response in MS Word format with any confidential information clearly marked. The TRA will not publish the Word document and will only use it for internal purposes.
* A publishable copy of its response in Adobe PDF format. The TRA will publish the PDF version in its entirety. Thus, the respondent should take care to redact any commercially sensitive and confidential information in the PDF version of its response.

By participating in this consultation and by providing a PDF version of its response the respondent expressly authorizes the TRA to publish the submitted PDF version of its response in full.

It should be noted that none of the ideas expressed or comments made in this consultation document will necessarily result in formal decisions by the TRA and nothing contained herein shall limit or otherwise restrict the TRA’s powers to regulate the telecommunications sector at any time.

If any Person or entity seeks to clarify or discuss any part of this outline can request for a meeting in writing again to the above E-mail before and then TRA will set the meetings in the period from 27-29 October 2015 so that formal comments can still be received by **1200 hours on 19 November 2015.**

Consultation Schedule

18 October 2015: Publishing of consultation document

27-29 October 2015: Meetings with stakeholders if requested by stakeholders

19 November 2015: Close of consultation

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# Introduction

## The TRA is in the process of reviewing the spectrum regulations related to the authorization of Amateur Radio as detailed in the Articles of “Regulations: Amateur Radio Service, Version 1.0” dated 5 August 2009.

## Following a competitive tender process, the TRA appointed specialist telecoms market consultants LS telcom (“the Consultants”) to undertake review of the existing regulations.

## The Consultant has examined the regulation “Amateur Radio Service, Version 1.0” dated 5 August 2009 and compared these against those in a series of benchmark countries. The benchmark countries used consisted of a combination of countries where relevant spectrum regulations are publicly available and whose spectrum regimes are well developed. Focus has been set on countries from ITU-Region 1 and countries within the region. Benchmark countries comprise:

* Germany
* Qatar
* United Kingdom
* Ireland

## In examining the UAE spectrum regulations and comparing them to international benchmarks, a number of principles have been used in guiding the proposals:

* Changes in the way services are defined or implemented in the UAE should be incorporated
* Changes in relevant ITU-R publications and industry changes should be incorporated to reflect latest developments and changes in technology
* Wherever possible technical information and frequency tables should be presented in line with the text, references to annexes should be avoided
* Wherever possible references to ITU-R publications and industry standards should be used instead of repeating text from these documents
* Non-technical regulations should be reduced to the relevant service specific regulations to avoid unnecessary overlap with other more general TRA regulations
* The different technical regulations reviewed should be harmonized in terms of structure and wording

## The remainder of this document is structured as follows:

* Section 2 presents details the Consultants proposed changes to the regulatory instrument
* Section 3 presents a summary of the proposed changes.

## Note that only those articles for which changes are proposed are discussed.

# Proposed Changes

## **New Article: Scope of Document**

### In order to define the scope of the document and give guidance on other relevant TRA regulations we propose to include a new article at the beginning of the document stating:

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| *0.1 This document comprises regulations for the authorization and operation of Amateur Radio. It shall be read in conjunction with the following documents available from the TRA website at www.tra.gov.ae:*  0.1.1 *Spectrum Allocation and Assignment Regulations*  *0.1.2 Spectrum Fees Regulations*  *0.1.3 Interference Management Regulations*  *0.1.4 National Spectrum Plan and National Table of Frequency  Allocation* |

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| Question 1: | Do Stakeholders have any views on the proposed introduction of a new article defining the scope of document and relevant other regulations? |

## **Renaming of Classes for Amateur Authorizations**

### The current Article 2.3 of the regulations for Amateur Radio defines the classes “Novice Class”, “Advanced Class” and “Special Class” for Amateur Authorization. We propose to change “Novice Class” to “Class B (Novice Class)” and “Advanced Class” to “Class A (Advance Class).”

### In addition to that we propose to change the wording of Article 2.3 to the following:

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| *2.3 The Amateur Authorizations will be issued in the following classes:-*  *2.3.2 Class A (Advance Class) – The Class A Amateur Authorization allows operation in all Amateur bands where in the table in Article 3 transmit powers for Class A are given. Class A Amateur is also authorized to operate Beacons and Repeaters and to be a responsible person to supervise activities of Club Stations or training for novices or students.*  *2.3.1 Class B (Novice Class) – The Class B Amateur Authorization allows only operation in VHF band 144 – 146 MHz with transmit power of 25 Watt PEP. Class B Amateur is not allowed to operate Beacons and Repeaters and / or to supervise activities of Club Stations or training for novices or students.*  *2.3.3 Special Class – The Special Class Amateur Authorization allows all Amateur bands with powers as given in the table in Article 3. The Special Class Amateur Authorization is limited to Amateur Societies, Club Stations, university or college facilities established for Amateur use.* |

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| Question 2: | Do Stakeholders have any comments to the proposed changes for Authorization classes as stated above? |

## **New Article 3 with frequency use and Technical Requirements**

### We propose to add a new Article 3 “Frequency Assignment for Amateur Radio / Technical Conditions” that provides guidance on available frequency bands and transmit powers per Authorization Class. For this we propose to modify Article 10.1 as following and to move it under Article 3:

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| *10.1 The Amateur shall comply with the use of frequency bands as authorized. The following table gives guidance on authorized bands and applicable maximum transmit powers per authorization class:* |

In addition to that we propose to add the following table to Article 3 that gives information which has so far covered by Annex 2. Modifications of the table comprise, aside format changes, the introduction of new bands for amateur satellite in the UHF Band and the use of W PEP instead of W ERP to define the maximum allowed transmit power:

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| |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Frequency Band** | **Status of  Allocation** | **Maximum Transmit Power  in W PEP** | | | **Allocation for**  **Amateur  Satellite** | | **Class A** | **Class B** | **Special Class** | | 1 810 – 1 850 kHz | P | 400 W | - | 400 W |  | | 3 500 – 3 800 kHz | S | 100 W | - | 100 W |  | | 7 000 – 7 100 kHz | P | 500 W | - | 500 W | P | | 7 100 – 7 200 kHz | S | 500 W | - | 500 W |  | | 10 100 – 10 150 kHz | S | 400 W | - | 400 W |  | | 14 000 – 14 350 kHz | P | 500 W | - | 1 000 W | P | | 18 068 – 18 168 kHz | P | 500 W | - | 1 000 W | P | | 21 000 – 21 450 kHz | P | 500 W | - | 1 000 W | P | | 24 890 – 24 990 kHz | P | 500 W | - | 1 000 W | P | | 28 000 – 29 700 kHz | P | 1000 W | - | 1 000 W | P | | 70 – 70.5 MHz | S | - | - | 100 W |  | | 144 – 146 MHz | P | 100 W | 25 W | 100 W | P | | 430 – 432 MHz | S | 50 W | - | 50 W |  | | 435 - 438 MHz | - | 50 W | - | 50 W | S | | 438 – 440 MHz | S | - | - | 10 W |  | | 1.24 – 1.3 GHz | S | - | - | 100 W |  | | 2.40 – 2.45 GHz | - | - | - | 100 W | S | | 10 – 10.5 GHz | S | - | - | 100 W |  | | 10.45 – 10.5 GHz | - | - | - | 100 W | S | | 24 – 24.05 GHz | P | - | - | 100 W | P | | 24.05 – 24.25 GHz | S | - | - | 100 W |  | | 47 – 47.2 GHz | P | - | - | 500 W | P | | 76 – 77.5 GHz | S | - | - | 100 W | S | | 77.5 – 78 GHz | P | - | - | 100 W | P | | 78 – 81 GHz | S | - | - | 100 W | S | | 122.25 – 123 GHz | S | - | - | 100 W |  | | 134 – 136 GHz | P | - | - | 100 W | P | | 136 – 141 GHz | S | - | - | 100 W | S | | 241 – 248 GHz | S | - | - | 100 W | S | | 248 – 250 GHz | P | - | - | 100 W | P |   ***Notes:***  *(1) Column “Status of Allocation” gives information if the allocation is on Primary (P) or Secondary (S) basis. Services on secondary basis shall not cause harmful interference nor claim protection from interference.*  *(2) Operation for a specific authorization class is limited to frequency bands where for this class a power value is indicated in column “Maximum Transmit Power in W PEP”.*  *(3) Operation of Amateur Satellite is limited to “Class A” and “Special Class” in frequency bands where indicated in Column “Allocation for Amateur Satellite”.* |

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| Question 3: | Do Stakeholders have any views on the proposed table, included frequency bands per authorization class and transmit power limitations? |

## **Amateur Eligibility (Article 3)**

### In order to align Amateur Eligibility to best international practice we propose to delete Article 3.1.2 that defines a minimum age for applicants.

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| Question 4: | Do Stakeholders have any comments on the proposed deletion of the requirement of a minimum age for applicants? |

### In order to avoid overlap with other regulations and limit provided regulations to those relevant for the applicant we propose to delete Article 3.1.4 and to change article 3.1.3 to the following:

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| *3.1.3 Examination – The Applicants for an Amateur Authorization shall have to pass an examination to determine their abilities to operate the Amateur Station and observe other regulatory obligations determined by the Authority. Such an examination shall be conducted by an entity duly authorised by the Authority* |

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| Question 5: | Do Stakeholders have any views on the proposed deletion of Article 3.1.4 and the modifications to Article 3.1.3? |

## **Validity of an Amateur Authorization (Article 5)**

### We propose to limit the validity of an amateur authorization to 1 year by rewording Article 5.1 as following:

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| *5.1 The Amateur Authorization can be issued upon payment of charges for a period of one year and can be renewed thereafter. The Amateur during the term of an Authorization can request the cancellation of its Authorization. The validity of the Amateur Authorization issued to the citizens of other countries with a valid residence permit in the UAE will become invalid with the expiry or cancellation of the residence permit* |

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| Question 6: | Do Stakeholders have any views on the proposed change to limit the validity of an amateur authorization to 1 year? |

## **Move and deletion of sections**

### In order to improve the readability of the document we propose to move the content of Article 9 under the new Article 3.

### As a consequence of the proposed inclusion of a new table with frequency bands under a new Article 3 and in order to avoid overlap with other regulations and limit provided regulations to those relevant for the applicant we propose to delete the following Articles and Annexes:

* Article 3.1.4
* Article 9
* Article 10
* Article 12
* Article 15
* Article 16
* Annex 2

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| Question 7: | Do Stakeholders agree to the proposed moves and deletions of the articles listed above? |

# Summary of consultation questions

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| Question 1: | Do Stakeholders have any views on the proposed introduction of a new article defining the scope of document and relevant other regulations? |
| Question 2 | Do Stakeholders have any comments to the proposed changes for Authorization classes as stated above? |
| Question 3: | Do Stakeholders have any views on the proposed table, included frequency bands per authorization class and transmit power limitations? |
| Question 4: | Do Stakeholders have any comments on the proposed deletion of the requirement of a minimum age for applicants? |
| Question 5: | Do Stakeholders have any views on the proposed deletion of Article 3.1.4 and the modifications to Article 3.1.3? |
| Question 6: | Do Stakeholders have any views on the proposed change to limit the validity of an amateur authorization to 1 year? |
| Question 7: | Do Stakeholders agree to the proposed moves and deletions of the articles listed above? |