

WHAT IS AMATEUR RADIO?

Amateur radio is a popular hobby and volunteer public service (ARES) that uses designated radio frequencies for non-commercial exchange of messages, experimentation, self-training, and emergency communications. It provides people of all ages and backgrounds a fun way to communicate with others around the world (and in outer space – on the International Space Station), practice and expand their technical and emergency preparedness skills, keep in touch with old friends, and make new ones. Whether your interest lies in experimenting with the latest radio communication technologies, helping others in times of disaster or emergencies, participating in contests to see how many people around the globe you can contact, or “home-brewing” your own radio equipment from scratch, ham radio provides a lifetime of fun, learning, and social connections.

IS AMATEUR RADIO GOVERNED?

Yes, amateur radio is governed by Industry Canada, which regulates all aspects of amateur radio in the country. It assigns call signs, issues amateur radio licences, conducts exams, allots frequency spectrum, and monitors the radio waves. Amateur radio is the only hobby governed by international treaty.

DO I NEED A LICENCE?

In *Canada* you will need to prepare for and take an examination to get your licence. If you are successful, you will be given a licence issued by Industry Canada to allow you to be able to transmit radio signals on a number of frequency bands allocated specifically to the radio amateurs.

WHAT IS THE COST FOR A LICENCE?

Industry Canada does not charge you for your licence.

WHAT CAN I DO WHEN I RECEIVE MY LICENCE?

Radio amateurs make use of their frequencies in a number of ways:

- Contacting people all over the world by radio which often leads to developing international friendships
- Competing in international competitions to test how effective your equipment is, and how good you are as an operator
- Technical experimentation — many of the leaps forward in radio technology have been initiated by radio amateurs
- Communication through amateur space satellites or with the International Space Station (which carries an amateur radio station)
- Providing communications at times of emergencies and undertaking exercises to ensure you keep the capability to do so.

