

## Information Update for the BCARCC Annual General Meeting

### New Name

Industry Canada is now *Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada* ! (ISED)  
With the change in government we were re-branded, and have a renewed focus on innovation as well as compliance.

### Antenna Support Structures

During the past year, there was an issue in the Vancouver Island District involving an antenna support tower issue related to amateur radio operation. This issue is ongoing. Amateur radio operators with antenna support structures should continue to follow the requirements in CPC 2-0-03, and the requirements of their local Land Use Authority.

### Compliance

A notification was issued to local Emergency Preparedness entities advising them not to communicate with non-Amateur stations. An operator was caught communicating with a U.S. Government FEMA station using a commercial callsign. While U.S. Regulations may permit FEMA stations to contact MARS or Amateur stations on Amateur frequencies, these are US Regulations and do not apply to Canadian Amateurs.

From the Radiocommunications Regulations:

#### Emergency Communications

*48. In a real or simulated emergency, a person operating radio apparatus in the amateur radio service **may only communicate with a radio station that is in the amateur radio service** in order to transmit a message that relates to the real or simulated emergency on behalf of a person, government or relief organization.*

### Spectrum Management System

- ISED has now modernized its Spectrum Management System, which has resulted in changes to radio licences and the online services used to file applications and to access information.

Visit our Spectrum web site:

[https://sms-sgs.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/sms-sgs-prod.nsf/eng/h\\_00010.html](https://sms-sgs.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/sms-sgs-prod.nsf/eng/h_00010.html)

- The system provides new ways of issuing and managing radiocommunication licences in real time, using a more streamlined, automated process and can be adapted to new licensing requirements.
- Most licencing is now migrated over to the new system, which provides online access to licencing information to the public, and users.
- Amateur and professional radio certification admin systems are not currently within scope of this system.

### **RIC-3 Updated – December 2016**

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) has issued a revised version of ***RIC-3, Information on the Amateur Radio Service***. It replaces RIC-3 Version 3 that was released in July 2005.

The changes from the old (2005) version include.

- 1) Changing references of Industry Canada to ISED.
- 2) Accounting for changes to other related documentation
- 3) The rescinding of several other RIC's, and the creation of RBR-4 : Standards for the Operation of Radio Stations in the Amateur Radio Service – Jan 2014.
- 4) The removal of the full text extracts of Amateur-related sections of the Regulations (though the references to the Regs remain).
- 5) Extensive updates on changes to the International CEPT certificate program

However, the most important changes, are the expansion and clarification of the privileges and restrictions of those with Basic and Advanced certification.

- a. It is now explicit that only those with an Advanced certification are allowed to Remote Control any fixed station (by any means) in the Amateur service.
- b. While it remains that only those with an Advanced certification are allowed to build 'home-made' transmitters, it does now stipulate that those with only Basic certification can still build their own radio using a commercially available and professionally designed transmitter kit.
- c. The Basic qualification will now allow the user to operate a cross-band repeater. Same-band repeaters are still restricted to the Advanced certification. This is due to the Radio Regulations only specifying a restriction on same-frequency-band automatic retransmission. By omission, cross-bands are allowed for those with just Basic.

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**Canada** 

d. The RIC now explicitly states that those with Basic can “[reprogram] radio equipment to operate in the Amateur Bands if this can be done by a computer program...no physical modifications to the circuitry”. It also explicitly states that those with the advanced qualification can “modify radio apparatus by computer program or physical modifications to the circuitry”. For those who wish to review the new version of RIC-3, it can be found here:

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf01008.html>

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update to the BCARC Council on matters related to amateur radio.

73

Russ Hamilton  
Spectrum Management Officer  
VE7RWX

#### **District Staffing**

Jeff Stanhope  
District Manager, Coastal District (Victoria)

Arthur Lo  
District Manager, Coastal District (Surrey)

Doug Shorter  
District Manager, Coastal District (Surrey)

Mike Amyotte  
District Manager, Interior BC and Yukon District (Kelowna)

Brad Davis  
District Manager, Interior BC and Yukon District (Prince George)

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BC Amateur Repeater Coordination Council  
Attention: Ed Frazer VE7EF

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### Antenna Support Structures

- Changes to CPC 2-0-03 *Radiocommunication and Broadcasting Antenna Systems* announced early in 2014 became effective with release of Issue 5 in July 2014. Commercial operators were directly affected by changes to consultation requirements; however amateur radio operators should be aware that there have been wording changes that affect all structure proponents.
  - **Existing Antenna Systems (excluded from land use and public consultation requirements):** where modifications are made, antennas added or the tower replaced\*, including to facilitate sharing, provided that the total cumulative height increase is no greater than 25% of the height of the initial antenna system installation.\*\* **No increase in height may occur within one year of completion of the initial construction.** This exclusion does not apply to antenna systems using purpose built antenna supporting structures with a height of less than 15 metres above ground level operated by telecommunications carriers, broadcasting undertakings or third party tower owners;
  - Whether the proponent followed a land-use authority's consultation process or Industry Canada's default public consultation process, **construction of an antenna system must be completed within three years of the conclusion of consultation.** After three years, consultations will no longer be deemed valid except in the case where a proponent secures the agreement of the relevant land-use authority to an extension for a specified time period in writing. A copy of the agreement must be provided to the local Industry Canada office.

### Enforcement Issues

- CPC 3-24-01 Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPS) Under the Radiocommunication Act – Guidance to Stakeholders.
  - Posted April 2 2015, this document provides guidance about how administrative monetary penalties will be use by Industry Canada. In cases where Industry Canada's spectrum requirements are not being met through voluntary compliance, an administrative monetary penalty (AMP) may be imposed. AMPs are financial penalties that encourage compliance with regulatory requirements, such as those established by Industry Canada relating to spectrum management and wireless services in Canada. AMPs allow for a measured, proportionate response to a wide range of violations under the Radiocommunication Act.
  - The imposition of AMPs is one of several different actions that may be taken by the Department to enforce its requirements, particularly in cases of more serious violations. Other possible actions include: issuing tickets under the Contraventions Act, which include small fines; issuing orders to take specific measures to come into compliance where radio interference is being caused; seizing devices that do not meet technical standards or are prohibited, such as jammers; and prosecution of regulatory offences.
  - For further information please refer to the IC Compliance and Enforcement web page.

## New Spectrum Management System

- Industry Canada is modernizing its Spectrum Management System, which will result in changes to radio licences and the online services used to file applications and to access information.
  - The system will provide new ways of issuing and managing radiocommunication licences in real time, using a more streamlined, automated process and a more stable core system.
  - The project will follow a phased-in approach, with different services transitioned from the legacy systems over a series of releases, starting with a pilot release.
  - Other service lines will follow, with completion of this project scheduled for March 31, 2016.
  - Amateur and professional radio certification admin systems are not currently within scope of this project.

## Staffing Update

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