

Licence Conditions

Most radio transmitting licences dictate the exact frequency or frequencies to be used. For example, taxis, the Police, Fire, Ambulance, Fishing boats, Citizens Band, mobile telephones etc.
The transmitting equipment has to be "type approved" and the mode of transmission is laid down exactly.

However, Radio Amateurs have important privileges:

They are allocated many bands of frequencies and they are authorised to choose any frequency within these bands.

They can use commercial, modified or home built transmitters (not Foundation)

They can choose which mode of transmission is used and powers up to 400W.

But...you don't get anything for nothing!

To earn these privileges Radio Amateurs have to:

- pass the Advanced RCE
- keep a log of each transmission (except when "mobile")
- be able to ensure that the transmitter is functioning correctly [4.(1)(ab)] and any undue interference is restricted and adequately dealt with.[4.(2 & 3)]
- carry out periodic tests and be able to receive on the same frequencies chosen for transmission. [4.(4 & 5)]

The Log

The Log of transmissions may be in a book or on magnetic tape or disk etc

A typical Log could look like this:

DATE		TIME (UTC)		FREQUENCY		CALL-	MODE	POWER	COMMENTS
Start	End	MHz	SIG						
7/6/97	1410	1438	3.745	G3OJZ	J3E	80 W	Brian, Capel		
7/6/97	1435	1451	3.745	G4OJG	J3E	80 W	John, Dover		
12/6/97	2130	2136	14.134	Test	A1A	100 W	No TVI observed		
13.6.97	0912	0918	7.075	M0ABC	J3E	25 W	Answered CQ		
13.6.97	0918	0933	7.068	M0ABC	J3E	25 W	QRM so QSY down		
13.6.97	0933	0956	7.068	M0ABC	J3E	35 W	Increased power		

The actual layout of the Log is not stipulated. The Amateur can make his own, so far that the information required in BR68 [6.(1) (a-i)] is given.

No gaps should be left between entries; no blank lines.

A Log Book should not be "loose-leaf" to prevent pages being added or removed!

The Log Book or disc/tape should be kept for at least 6 months.

The following points should be noted in the Log sample

Time

The start and finish times are given as UTC. This is Coordinated Universal Time. This is the same as "GMT". [6.(1)(b)] and Note S.

Frequency

Only the frequency band is required,[6.(1)(c)] but in practise, it is more common to quote the precise frequency in the Log.

Callsign

The callsign of the station you contact or call (even if not answered). If a general call is made (CQ) and there is no answer "CQ" would be entered in this column. [6.(1)(f)]

Mode -is another word for class of emission or Type of Transmission

For example, Morse; Telephony; RTTY; Data etc.

BR68 does now actually say "Class of Emission" [6.(1) (d)] and this suggests a more specific description of the "mode" is preferred.

When using speech - most Radio Amateurs use Upper (or lower) Single Side-band, suppressed carrier. This is quite a mouthful, and very lengthy to write in the Log. It is therefore convenient to use code or abbreviations for the Class of Emission.

CODES FOR CLASS OF EMISSION

A suitable code has been agreed by a Telecommunications Convention consisting, normally, of three characters:

LETTER + NUMBER + LETTER

The above example(Upper Sideband, suppressed carrier) would be J3E.[BR68 Note t]

[QUESTION 8]

If you use a handheld microphone, in conjunction with a frequency modulated transceiver, your Class of Emission would be:

- a) A3E b) FM3 c) F3E d) F3M

[QUESTION 9]

The times in your Amateur Radio Log book should be quoted in:

- a) BST b) UCT c) EST d) UTC

[QUESTION 10]

Gaps should be left between some entries to allow later additions

- a) never b) to add test results c) sometimes d) if using Morse

[QUESTION 11]

How long should the Amateur Radio Log be retained? For at least:

- a) 6 days b) 6 weeks c) 6 months d) 6 years

Extra details (voluntary) in the Amateur Radio Log

Most amateurs like to note extra information for their own interest. In addition to the "comments" the following columns are usually found in the Amateur Radio Station Log book.

SIGNAL SENT	STRENGTH RECEIVED	QSL SENT	QSL RECD	<i>Treat these columns as a continuation of those on the previous page.</i>
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5/9+10	5/9	-	-	
	5/8	4/8	Yes	
4/3	3/3	-	-	
	5/4	5/4	-	-
5/6	5/7	Yes	-	

The Log

It is permissible to use a computer to make the log and to "record" the details on a computer disc. However, if an authorised officer wants a copy of the Log, the amateur should be able to provide a printout within a reasonable time. [6.(2)&(4)]

Mobile and Maritime-Mobile Logs

It is **not** necessary to keep a log when operating either Mobile or when Maritime-Mobile. [BR68 note R]

[QUESTION 12]

Why do you think a Log is not required for /M and /MM ?

[QUESTION 13]

What, in your opinion, is the purpose of insisting that Radio Amateurs keep a Log of their transmissions?

[QUESTION 14]

You call "CQ", looking for a contact, but there is no reply.

Is it necessary to make an entry in your Log?

- Yes, if it is the first transmission of the day
- Yes
- Only if your output power is more than 100 Watts.
- No

Tests

From time to time, without being asked, Radio Amateurs, should carry out their own tests.

Examples of these tests could be:

- checking transmitter output power measurements are correct.
- to determine if transmitter causes interference to your own TV or Hi-Fi equipment or not.
- if there is interference, note which frequencies and modes are most troublesome.
- confirm that the transmitter frequency is correct.

Also, an officer authorised by the Secretary of State, may request that special tests are carried out.

Details of all of the above tests (both formal and informal) should be entered in the Station Log.

Remote control

It is permitted to use Low Power Radio Transmitters, in certain Amateur Bands [see BR68: 2.(4)b] for the remote control of the main Amateur Radio equipment.

It is not necessary to "log" transmissions from low power remote control equipment, however, it is always important to "log" use of the main transmitters. [BR68 2.(6)]

Official inspection of the Log etc

Oftel can authorise his officers to carry out inspections of your Log and your Amateur Radio Station equipment.

Such inspections will normally be carried out at a reasonable time. However, if the Secretary of State considers an urgent situation has occurred, then this inspection can be at any time.

See BR68 8.(1) a&b.

Operation from a Temporary Location

When operating from a temporary location and using the suffix "/P" it is necessary to announce your location every 30 minutes. You should also enter location details in your Station Log. The accuracy of location details must be within 5km.

[QUESTION 15]

Radio Amateurs should carry out tests from time to time. Details of these test should be recorded:

- a) in the Log.
- b) on a special report form.
- c) in a standard diary for the day concerned.
- d) on magnetic tape alongside non-amateur recordings.

[QUESTION 16]

If the Log is kept on a computer disc,

- a) it must be held at local library
- b) you should be able to produce a hard copy when required
- c) you should be able to produce a hard copy within seven days
- d) copy on to another disc for the Oftel officer to use

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