

AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR CALLSIGN POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The Australian Maritime College (AMC) manages the Australian Amateur Radio callsign block under delegation from the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).

1. AMATEUR CALLSIGN STRUCTURE

Callsigns are a unique combination of letters and numbers allocated to a radiocommunications user to identify a station.

Callsigns must be used for all on-air communications including testing. Callsigns allocated to amateur stations conform with International Telecommunication Union (ITU) *Radio Regulations* (see Table 1 for callsign construction). Table 2 contains information about the callsign templates allocated to the amateur licencing options.

Table 1 – Amateur Callsign Construction

| Prefix | Suffix |
|--|---|
| VK\$, where \$ is the State/Territory Indicator. This is a number from 0-9 indicating the State or Territory in which the station is operating: 0 = Antarctic 1 = Australian Capital Territory 2 = New South Wales 3 = Victoria 4 = Queensland 5 = South Australia 6 = Western Australia 7 = Tasmania 8 = Northern Territory 9 = Australian External Territories | Suffix of two, three or four letters. The first letter in the three or four group indicates the licence type of the amateur station transmitting. For example, VK\$Taa, where 'T' signifies that the amateur transmitting this callsign holds an Advanced licence. See Table 2 for template details. |

Note: State/Territory indicators (\$) are used to indicate a station's licensed location. When an amateur moves interstate to live, he or she will be issued a new callsign to indicate the new State or Territory of residence.

VK9 prefix callsigns are allocated to amateurs residing in or visiting Australia's External Territories, other than Antarctica. Licences with VK9 callsigns allocated to visiting amateurs will only be issued for the duration of their visit and will not be renewed.

Table 2 – Callsign Templates Allocated to Amateur Licencing Options

| Licence option | Template |
|----------------|--|
| Advanced | VK\$aa, VK\$Aaa, VK\$Baa, VK\$Caa, VK\$Daa, VK\$Eaa, VK\$Faa, VK\$Gaa, VK\$Iaa, VK\$Jaa, VK\$Kaa, VK\$Oaa, VKRaa*, VK\$Saa, VK\$Taa, VK\$Uaa, VK\$Waa, VK\$Xaa, VK\$Yaa, VK\$Zaa, VK\$WI and VK\$WIA-WIZ (WIA), VK\$GGA-GGZ (Guides Aust), VK\$SAA-SDZ (Scouts Assoc.), VK7OTC, VK\$IYA - IYZ (International years) |
| Standard | VK\$Haa, VK\$Laa, VK\$Maa, VK\$Naa, VK\$Paa, VK\$Vaa |
| Foundation | VK\$Faaa |
| Repeater | VK\$Raa |

*No further advanced callsigns will be issued from this block.

2. SPECIAL EVENT CALLSIGNS

Callsigns other than those normally allocated to an amateur station may be allocated on occasions of international, national, state/territory or local significance. The event must be of broad interest to the Amateur or wider community.

The AMC will only recommend special event callsigns where the Amateur station concerned is actually participating in the event. The ACMA will generally issue only one such special event station licence in relation to a particular event.

The callsign may employ special prefixes (e.g. AX or VI) and/or special suffixes. All special callsigns will include the appropriate state/territory indicator when the operation is confined to a particular state.

The ACT Territory designator “1” will be used when the special event callsign is to be used in more than one State or Territory. The ACMA may authorise the use of callsigns with suffixes comprising two or more characters (letters and/or digits). The ACMA will issue a short-term licence for the period of the event or celebration.

The format of a special event callsign is detailed in the table below.

Table 3 – Special Event Callsign Formation

| Prefix | Numeric Identifier | Letter Suffix |
|--------------|---|---------------|
| VK, AX or VI | \$ or \$\$ or \$\$\$ or \$\$\$\$ | aa-aaaaa* |

* On special occasions for temporary use more than four characters may be used.

If the callsign reads as a word, that word must be spelt out alphabetically.
The allocation of specific 'AX' or 'VI' prefix callsigns for individual particular events, where the callsign does not comply with usual amateur callsign construction (AX\$aa, AX\$aaa or AX\$aaaa (where \$ is the State/Territory indicator)) cannot be guaranteed.

3. ALLOCATION OF THE AX PREFIX

The AX prefix is only available for occasions of special national or international significance.

Australia Day (26 January) ANZAC Day (25 April) and World Telecommunication Day (17 May) of each year have been pre-determined as occasions where the AX prefix may be used.

Under such circumstances:

- i. the 'AX' prefix, which will be made available to all amateurs, may be used in lieu of the normal 'VK' prefix printed on the licensee's amateur licence;
- ii. a special event callsign using the AX prefix may also be allocated in respect of the occasion;
- iii. allocation of the prefix will be restricted to the duration of the occasion.

4. ALLOCATION OF THE VI PREFIX:

This prefix is only available for occasions of special state/territory or local significance during such times when this prefix is not required by the ACMA for use by other services. Occasions warranting such use will be determined by the AMC in consultation with the ACMA.

Use of the 'VI' prefix usually involves 'VI' being substituted for the normal 'VK' prefix.

The ACMA will only accept requests for the allocation of the 'VI' prefix from clubs, organisations or amateur groups.

5. USE OF THE IYA - IYZ SUFFIX GROUP:

The IYA - IYZ suffix group will continue to be reserved for use by groups wishing to commemorate United Nations' declared years, for example, International Year of the Child (IYC).

APPLYING FOR A CALLSIGN

Process Overview

Callsigns are issued in accordance with the structure detailed in Section 1.

The system has not changed from the previous arrangements - the AMC issue a callsign recommendation to the ACMA, who issue the actual licence/callsign.

The applicant completes the appropriate AMC Application Form, as well as the ACMA Form Amateur 1. <http://www.amc.edu.au/industry/amateur-radio/callsigns>

If the callsign recommendation is successful, it will be sent to the applicant.

The recommendation and the ACMA form *Amateur 1* are then forwarded to the ACMA, who will issue the licence.

List of Available Callsigns

The AMC maintains an online list of available callsigns, based on a download from the ACMA Radcom database. The list is searchable by licence type and State/Territory. The database is located at <https://www.amc.edu.au/industry/amateur-radio/callsigns/publicly-available-callsigns>.

The ACMA Radcom database is also available on line at: https://web.acma.gov.au/rrl/register_search.main_page

Note that callsigns not listed in the Radcom database may not necessarily be available, due to reservation, etc.

The AMC list of available callsigns should be regarded as the definitive reference.

Callsign Not Available for 7 days After Listing

The AMC will not issue a callsign recommendation for 7 working days after the callsign is first placed on the public list.

This is to allow for errors caused either by incorrect processing or by the callsign expiring due to the holder mistakenly not paying the licence fee.

Equitable Distribution of Two Letter Callsigns

Two letter callsigns are sought after, and here is a limited supply in the populous states (VK2, 3 and 4).

Callsigns of Deceased Amateurs (the reserved list)

The callsign of a deceased Amateur is reserved for two years.

The partner, next of kin, personal representative (i.e. an amateur friend of the deceased) or executor/administrator of the estate should advise either the AMC or the ACMA of the death of the licence holder.

The partner, next of kin, personal representative or executor/administrator of the estate may also request that the callsign be transferred to a particular person or be placed back on the public list.

There is no charge for this service.

The reserved list also includes callsigns that are likely to cause offence to any person or group or are otherwise inappropriate for any reason.

Transfer of Licences

Nothing in these arrangements for the management of callsigns by the AMC shall diminish the right of a licensee to transfer an apparatus licence to another person qualified to hold the licence.

Callsign Recommendation Types

Level One

Next available callsign as appropriate for the licence type. Not selected from the Public List.

Level Two

First and second preference from the Public List: both preferences are either a two letter callsign from VK 1, 5, 6, 7 or 8 or a three or four letter callsign in any State/Territory

Level Three

First and, if available, second preference two letter callsign from VK 2, 3 or 4, selected from the Public List.

Level Four

Special event callsign (see section xx) – this includes callsigns for VK 9 and 0.

Level Five

Repeater or beacon callsign.

Application Forms

Application forms for the various recommendation levels and the ACMA Amateur1 form may be downloaded here: <http://www.amc.edu.au/industry/amateur-radio/callsigns>

Contact details: AMC 1300 852 701
 ACMA 1300 850 115

How to Apply for a Level 1, 2, 4 or 5 Recommendation

Download and complete the form appropriate for the callsign being sought. All forms have a section for credit card payments, which will expedite the process.

Callsign application forms are also normally held by assessors. These can be completed at the time of examination. (currently)

Applicants must sign both the AMC and ACMA forms.

Callsign recommendations normally remain valid for 28 Days.

How to Apply for a Level 3 Recommendation – i.e. a 2 letter VK2, 3 or 4 callsign

Complete the appropriate form as per the other levels.

These callsigns are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Callsign Fees

The ACMA approved fees are as follows:

Level 1 - \$25
Level 2 - \$35
Level 3 - \$60
Level 4 - \$30
Level 5 - \$30