

Proposed Assessments for the ZS License

Introduction

Chapter 3, regulation B1 (3) of the proposed amendments to the Radio Regulations that were issued for comment in Government Gazette No. 25814 of 17 March 2004 provides that

“Class A1 (unrestricted) License (ZS – CEPT Class 1) may be issued to a person who –

- (a) Has furnished proof of his or her ability to correctly set up, adjust and operate an amateur HF transceiver; and
- (b) Is in possession of a HAREC issued by the Authority; and
- (c) *Is in possession of a certificate issued by the national body approved by the Minister attesting that he or she has satisfactorily completed an assessment prescribed by the national body for this purpose that demonstrates advanced knowledge of theoretical or practical aspects of amateur radio.”*

Since the S.A.R.L. is the “national body approved by the Minister”, it is our responsibility to prescribe the assessments that candidates for a ZS license must complete in terms of part (c) of the requirement.

Council released an early draft of the proposed assessments for comment by members on 31 March 2004. The current draft was formulated to take account of the comments received and was approved as a draft recommendation by Council at its meeting of 6 July. It will be made available for comment by members and once these comments have been considered a final document will be adopted as SARL policy.

This document does not attempt to express the assessments in watertight legal terminology. Its purpose is to communicate the intention behind each assessment. Once Council has approved the final form of the assessments, rules for assessments will be drawn out stating the requirements in detail as well as the assessment criteria that will be used to evaluate submissions.

Requirements for Assessments

In drawing up this proposal, Council has identified the following requirements for the assessments in order to make in practical to administer them efficiently and apply them fairly to all candidates.

1. There should not be too many alternative assessments, as each assessment will require documentation and procedures to process applications, which must be kept up to date. This will incur an unacceptable overhead if a large number of assessments are allowed.
2. The assessments should be chosen so they cover as broad a range of the theoretical and practical aspects of amateur radio as possible. Ideally, every

candidate should be able to find an assessment in an area that is of interest to him or her.

3. The assessments should be as objective as possible so that standards will be the same in all regions.
4. The assessments should be as simple as possible to evaluate and administer.

Proposed Assessments

Bearing in mind these considerations, Council proposes the following qualifying assessments. Note that a candidate for a ZS license would have to pass *any one* of these assessments, and the choice of which assessment to attempt would be up to the candidate concerned.

1. Operating Achievement

Confirmed contacts with 100 separate stations on any combination of bands or modes. Note that the requirement of 100 separate stations means that each station can only be counted once, even if it is contacted on many bands or modes. Contacts must be confirmed by QSL cards, through Logbook of the World, or through any other confirmation mechanism that is accepted for the issuing of the DXCC award. Only simplex contacts, and contacts through earth-orbiting satellites, will be counted. Contacts through terrestrial repeaters will not count. All contacts must be made in accordance with the terms of the candidate's license.

Note that the new regulations include HF privileges for ZR licenses so it is entirely possible for a ZR to qualify for this on the basis of HF contacts, although simplex VHF and UHF contacts also qualify.

To qualify for this assessment the candidate must present acceptable proof of the claimed contacts (for example, QSL cards) to two card checkers nominated by a club and appointed by the SARL. The card checkers will sign a certificate attesting to the fact that the cards have been checked and found to be valid, and submit this certificate to the SARL. If there are no (or insufficient) card checkers in the candidate's area, then he or she may submit the cards directly to the SARL.

2. Electronics Construction

The candidate must construct and demonstrate one of the following:

- (a) A working direct conversion or superheterodyne radio receiver that can receive and demodulate transmissions on any frequency allocated to the amateur service in any mode used by the amateur service. The sensitivity and selectivity of the receiver must be sufficient to be able to receive typical amateur signals.
- (b) A working crystal-controlled transmitter that can transmit modulated signals with a power of at least 1 watt on a frequency allocated to the amateur service using any modulation method used by the amateur service. The emission of an unmodulated carrier does not fulfill this

requirement. The emitted signal must be of good quality in all respects including frequency stability, bandwidth, key clicks and harmonic radiation.

The project may be constructed from a kit. Although the candidate may receive advice from other amateurs, all physical construction work (soldering, etc.) must have been performed by the candidate him or herself.

To qualify for this assessment the candidate must present his or her project to two assessors nominated by a club and appointed by the SARL. As well as verifying that the project works as specified, the assessors will discuss the project with the candidate to ensure that he or she understands how it works and the theory behind it. Candidates who construct projects for kits should ensure that they understand how their project works before submitting it for assessment. The candidate will be required to submit an affidavit stating that the project is entirely his or her own work.

3. Public Service and Emergency Communications

The candidate must provide proof that he or she has spent at least 50 hours providing communications services for one or more of the following public service events:

- (a) Sports events, including motor racing;
- (b) Disaster preparedness exercises run under the auspices of Hamnet;
- (c) Actual assistance rendered during a real emergency or disaster;
- (d) The operation of educational stations registered with the League for events such as Kid's Day, JOTA and CQ Houkoers.

The time spent providing communication services shall include only the time spent operating, or supervising the operation of, an amateur transceiver as reasonably required by the event concerned and under the direction of the chief radio marshal or event organizer.

Candidates who wish to qualify for this assessment shall be issued with log sheets by the SARL. The log sheet will be filled in and signed by the chief radio marshal or event organizer for each event claimed towards fulfillment of the assessment.

4. Recognition of professional qualifications.

The candidate must provide proof that he or she has been awarded any of the following qualifications:

- (a) A nationally recognized tertiary degree, diploma or trade certificate in electronics or radio that would ordinarily require at least two years of study to complete; or

- (b) A PMG1 or equivalent certificate qualifying the candidate as a marine radio officer.

Candidates who wish to qualify for this assessment must present a certified copy of their qualification directly to the SARL.

5. Morse Code Proficiency

The candidate must demonstrate the ability to send by hand and receive by ear Morse code at a speed of not less than 5 words per minute. Morse tests will be administered by Morse examiners nominated by a club and appointed by the SARL.

Recognition of Prior Achievements

A candidate who at the time when these assessments come into operation has already fulfilled the requirements for any of the assessments, and who can provide the necessary proof of having fulfilled the requirement, shall qualify for a ZS license. The log sheet required by the Public Service and Emergency Communications assessment may be completed retrospectively for services performed prior to the introduction of these assessments.