

THE SARL, CEPT AND HAREC

To understand and follow this article, it is necessary to familiarize one-self with a few abbreviations:

- **CEPT** – Conference of European Postal and Telecommunications Administrations.
- **CEPT COUNTRY** - A Country that is a member of CEPT.
- **CEPT ECC** - CEPT Electronics Communications Committee.
- **HAREC** - Harmonized Amateur Radio Examination Certificate.
- **IARU**- International Amateur Radio Union.
- **ITU** – International Telecommunication Union.
- **NON-CEPT COUNTRY** – A Country, not being a member of CEPT, who made application to CEPT for participation in the CEPT radio amateur licensing systems, thereby entering into an agreement with all CEPT countries to implement Recommendations accepted by CEPT.

South Africa is a non-CEPT country, similar to for example Canada, Israel , New Zealand, Peru and the United States of America. However, by agreement as set out above, South Africa is obliged to implement the Recommendations accepted by CEPT.

Let us have a closer look at some of the recommendations, as published by CEPT.

RECOMMENDATION T/R61-01E (as revised in 2003)

This Recommendation as revised has the aim to:

1. To make it possible for non-CEPT countries to participate in the CEPT licensing system;
2. to implement the IARU strategy of simplifying the procedures to obtain **temporary** operational privileges (not exceeding three months), for foreign visitors in CEPT countries as well as non-CEPT countries.

Please note that this recommendation bears no relation to the import and export of Amateur Radio Equipment which is subject only to relevant customs regulations.

In essence this Recommendation provides for a special document (CEPT Radio Amateur License) to be issued by the Licensing Authority of the CEPT country or non-CEPT country where the amateur passed the required examination which will entitle the license holder for the duration of his temporary stay in countries having adopted the Recommendation T/R61-01E, to operate an amateur radio station within the scope of the regulations in force in the country visited.

When transmitting in the visited country, the license holder must use his national call sign preceded by the call sign prefix of the visited country. The call sign prefix and the national call sign must be separated by the character “/” (telegraphy) or the word “stroke” (telephony).

On request, the license holder shall present his CEPT Radio Amateur License to the appropriate authorities in the country visited.

The license holder shall observe the provisions of the ITU Radio Regulations, Recommendation T/R6-01E and the regulations in force in the country visited. Furthermore any restrictions imposed on the license holder by the country of origin, as well as local conditions of a technical nature should be strictly adhered to.

It is therefore important to note that if the license holder has a restricted license in his Country of origin, he has to operate within those restrictions in the visited country. However, in terms of Appendix VI of Recommendation T/R61-01E, the prefix to be used by a South African Amateur in a visited Country, is ZS. The reason for this anomaly is that the CEPT ECC decided that based on recommendation T/R61-02 the South African ZS/ZR examination is on par with the HAREC licenses in other CEPT Countries.

RECOMMENDATION TR\61-02 (AS REVISED IN 2004)

This recommendation as approved in 1990, makes it possible for CEPT countries to issue a Harmonized Amateur Radio examination Certificate (HAREC). The HAREC document shows proof of successfully passing an Amateur Radio Examination which complies with the examination syllabus for the HAREC. It facilitates the issuing of an individual license to radio amateurs who stay in a Country for a **longer term** than that mentioned in CEPT recommendation T/R61-01E. It also facilitates the issuing of an individual license to a radio amateur (without writing a further examination) returning to his native country showing the HAREC certificate issued by a foreign country.

The recommendation as revised in 1994 has the aim to make it possible for non-CEPT countries to participate in this system. This revision is comparable to the extension of recommendation T/R61-01E to non-CEPT countries.

The revision of 2001 lowered the requirements for sending and receiving Morse code signals from 12 words per minute to 5 words per minute.

The revision of 2003 removed the requirements for sending and receiving of Morse code signals completely.

To obtain a HAREC, a person is obliged to have passed a National Examination for Radio Amateurs that meets the criteria set out in paragraph 2 of Annex 1 of Recommendation T/R61-02.

A license based on HAREC allows:

1. the use of all frequency bands allocated to the amateur service, and;
2. is authorized in the country where the amateur station is to be operated.
3. Kindly note, the HAREC is issued by the country where the amateur has successfully passed the required examination. The class of license issued to the amateur after obtaining the HAREC, is entirely dependant on the legislation of the country issuing the HAREC.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, although a person holding a ZR license in South Africa is entitled to a HAREC, he can only operate an amateur radio station in terms of his restricted license within the Republic of South Africa. If such an amateur visits a CEPT country with his HAREC, it may well be that this amateur qualifies in terms of the legislation of the visited Country, for an unrestricted license.

The HAREC is nothing more than a declaration by the Country issuing this certificate, that the amateur passed the CEPT approved examination. It is for the Country issuing the license or privilege, to decide which class of license should be allocated to the amateur, because the right to operate an amateur radio station, is granted in terms of the legislation of that particular Country.

In terms of recommendation T/R61-02, any person who has obtained the HAREC in any Country participating in the system, has the right on return to his own Country to obtain a license there without having to pass a further examination. Therefore a person with a HAREC obtained in the United Kingdom will at least qualify for a ZR license in South Africa without passing any further examination and **may** qualify for a ZS license if he satisfies ICASA that the requirements pertaining to the upgrade to a ZS license, have been met.

It is as such recognized in the preamble to Recommendation TR\61-02 that the countries participating in this system agree, **subject to their National Laws and Regulations**, to issue national licenses corresponding to the CEPT examination standard to foreign nationals who possess a HAREC issued by another Country participating in this system, provided that such an amateur stays in that Country for a period longer than three months.

The International authorities accept the fact that the classification of the various national licenses classes causes some difficulties and therefore recommendation TR\61-02 goes no further than establishing a mutually recognized harmonized amateur radio examination certificate, the holder of which is entitled to a license, but always subject to the legislation of the visited Country.

The holders of a ZU license do not qualify for a HAREC and therefore has no privileges to operate outside the Republic of South Africa.

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