



UNION SCHWEIZERISCHER KURZWELLEN-AMATEURE
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UNIONE RADIOAMATORI DI ONDE CORTE SVIZZERI
UNION OF SWISS SHORT WAVE AMATEURS

Member of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU)

Leaflet:

Amateur Radio Traffic via Relay Stations

Purpose of relay stations

Relay stations are intended for regional connections between and with mobile stations and users of handheld radios. Stations wishing to hear each other directly and have a longer, face-to-face conversation switch to a simplex channel.

General

The use of relay stations requires special mutual consideration and disciplined behavior. Also, one must be aware that radio traffic over relay stations has many listeners. The individual radio amateur is often judged on the basis of his operating technique over the relay stations.

judged. It is up to each individual to ensure that this judgment is not unfavorable and that a good example is set for license candidates and others interested in Amateur Radio. Radio amateurs who, despite admonition, disregard the self-evident rules of decency or the limits of good taste, should be avoided as conversation partners; humid rounds as well as discussions about religion and politics belong to the regulars' table. Disregarding this principle damages the reputation of radio amateurs with the authorities and the public. Experience has shown that the consequences of negative publicity are almost irreparable.

Basic rules of traffic handling

Repeated calls within a short time are not necessary on relay stations; a short CQ call or a short targeted call to the desired station is sufficient (HB9QQ from HB9RR). Once a connection has been made, the duration of each pass should be kept short so that a lively short, so that a lively dialog can develop. The callsigns are announced only when the connection is established and closed, in longer calls every 10 minutes as prescribed; if more than one remote station is involved, the callsign of the station requested to transmit is announced at the end of a call. There must be a short pause before each pass to allow other stations to make themselves heard, especially when traffic is passing over relay stations with EchoLink® connections. While thinking or looking for something, the transmit button is released. Thinking out loud or talking to yourself while holding down the transmit button leaves an embarrassing impression.

Emergency messages

Emergency radio traffic has priority in any case. An emergency call may be made at any time, so short passes and observance of pauses for switching are essential. Emergency messages must be formulated precisely and contain all information necessary for the initiation of assistance or rescue measures (exact location, type of accident, injured persons if applicable, outbreak of fire, etc.). A received emergency call is immediately forwarded to the appropriate authorities, after which it is confirmed that all precautions have been taken. The radio amateur who has transmitted an emergency message remains with his equipment until the completion message is received.

Transmitting power

At exposed locations, the transmit power should be such that it does not interfere with the operation of relay stations operating farther away on the same channel.

Use of abbreviations

Telephony connections are handled in open language avoiding the abbreviations reserved for telegraphic traffic. Only a few abbreviations (e.g., the QSO, the QSL card, 73) are also appropriate in telephony traffic. Most radio amateurs who violate this principle also seem to have forgotten the correct meaning of Q codes and other abbreviations. Nonsensical is the use of abbreviations while assigning an incorrect meaning, such as:

	Incorrect meaning	Correct meaning
QRA	Father, family, location, people in the background	The name of my radio station is ...
QRL	Occupation, place of work	I am busy, please do not disturb
QRX	The changeover pause	I will call you at ... Clock (on ... kHz) call again
QRZ	- General call - I would like to be called by you - You are called by me - xxx calling yyy	QRZ? Who am I being called by? QRZ: You are being called by ... (on ... kHz) (hint of an OM that a third party is calling you)

Also, certain phrases (e.g. "All nice numbers", "QRU and T") are not very original and not common in our ranks.

Callsign announcement after keying a relay station

After keying a relay station, even for a short attempt, the callsign must be announced in accordance with regulations. As a general rule, do not respond to the keying of a relay station without a callsign announcement or to intentional interference. Instruction or expressions of displeasure will encourage the troublemaker to continue his mischief.

QSL cards

As a rule, QSL cards are not exchanged. If connections are confirmed via relay stations, they must be clearly marked as such. This prevents misuse of QSL cards for obtaining those diplomas for which only direct connections count.

Construction, financing and maintenance of relay stations

Relay stations are in principle open to all radio amateurs. There are no privileges, except in emergencies. Construction and maintenance require a large commitment of financial resources and unpaid labor. The USKA itself does not operate or finance any relay stations. So it is more than a noble gesture to demonstrate solidarity with the section or group that operates the nearest relay station, to the best of one's ability, financially and through cooperation. What radio amateur wants to look like a freeloader?

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Board of USKA

(prepared by the boards of HB9Z, HB9UF, HB9GL, HB9SP and HB9HD)

Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version)