



Do You Know?

The Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of Navigation published the September 28, 1912 edition of Regulations Governing Radio Communication. <http://earlyradiohistory.us/1912reg.htm>
The highlights of those regulations are highlighted below:

- Nine districts were created for the purpose of enforcing through radio inspectors the acts relating to radio communication and the International Convention. These districts supersede those announced in Department Circular No. 241, of September 5, 1912.
- The license provides that the holder shall take the oath for the preservation of the secrecy of messages before a notary public or officer authorized to administer oaths.
- General amateur stations are restricted to a transmitting wave length not exceeding 200 meters and a transformer input not exceeding 1 kilowatt. (Sec. 4, Fifteenth Regulation.)
- Special amateur stations may be licensed by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to use a longer wave length and a higher power on special application to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor. Applications for this class from amateurs with less than two years of experience in actual radio communication will not be approved. The application must state the experience and purpose of the applicant, the local conditions of radio communication, especially of maritime radio communication in the vicinity of the station, and a special license will be granted only if some substantial benefit to the art or to commerce apart from individual amusement seems probable.
- Restricted amateur stations, within 5 nautical miles of a naval or military station, are restricted to a wave length not exceeding 200 meters and to a transformer input not exceeding one-half kilowatt.
- There were two classes of amateur radio license
 - First grade.
 - Second grade.

The criteria for receiving an amateur radio license are listed below:

General. Amateurs, before applying for licenses, should read and understand the essential parts of the Berlin Radiotelegraphic Convention and sections 3, 4, 5, and 7 of the act of August 13, 1912.

- **The Department recognizes that radio communication offers a wholesome form of instructive recreation for amateurs.** At the same time its use for this purpose must observe strictly the rights of others to the uninterrupted use of apparatus for important public and commercial purposes.
- **The Department will not knowingly issue a license to an amateur who does not recognize and will not obey this principle. To this end the intelligent reading of the International Convention and the act of Congress is prescribed as the first step to be taken by amateurs.**

- Copies of the two publications may be secured for this purpose from the Department's radio inspectors or from the Commissioner of Navigation, **but they are not for public distribution.**

First grade license.

- The applicant must have a sufficient knowledge of the adjustment and operation of the apparatus, and of the regulations of the International Convention and acts of Congress in so far as they relate to interference with other radio communication and impose certain duties on all grades of operators.
- The applicant must be able to transmit and receive in Continental Morse, **but no speed rate will be prescribed.**
- Applicants for licenses of this grade residing at or near any place where examinations are held will communicate with examining officers and will be examined and receive licenses of amateur grades.
- At places in seaboard States, remote from examining officers, applicants will file applications with the radio inspector, who will endeavor to arrange for examinations on his inspection trips.
- Good for 2 years

Second grade license.

- The requirements for the second grade will be the same as for the first grade.
- **The second-grade license will be issued where an applicant cannot be examined or until he can be examined.**
- An examining officer or radio inspector is authorized in his discretion to waive an actual examination of an applicant for an amateur license, if the amateur for adequate reasons cannot present himself for examination but in writing can satisfy the examining officer or radio inspector that he is qualified to hold a license and will conform to its obligations.
- Good for 8 months or until examined.

Licenses for the use and operation of apparatus for radio communication under the act may be issued only to citizens of the United States or Porto Rico... Licenses are required before December 13, 1912.

Applications for amateur licenses

- Amateurs in the seaboard States should write to the examining officer in their vicinity for Form 756 (application for operator's license) and to the radio inspector in their vicinity, for Form 757 (application for license for land station). If the application for operator's license is also made to the radio inspector, both applications should be forwarded in the same envelope.
- Amateurs in the inland States will follow the same course, but they are requested to be patient, as licenses probably cannot be issued to them as operators or to their apparatus before November or December. Where application has been made for a license and the Department has not been able to act, through lack of time, steps toward imposing penalties of course will not be taken.

- Amateurs in doubt as to where or how to apply for licenses may address the Commissioner of Navigation.
- **Women are eligible as applicants for licenses of any class or grade upon the same conditions as men.**
- Operator's licenses should be framed and posted in the radio room, and licenses for stations should be accessible at all times to inspectors.

Now you know.