



Tonga

RADIO OPERATOR'S CERTIFICATES REGULATIONS

Chapter 15.03.02

2020 Revised Edition



RADIO OPERATOR'S CERTIFICATES REGULATIONS

Made by the Queen in Council on 10th November, 1961¹

Commencement [10th November 1961]

1. These regulations may be cited as the Radio Operator's Certificates Regulations.
2. The service of every radiotelegraph station aboard a ship registered in the Kingdom of Tonga shall be performed by an operator holding a certificate issued in accordance with these regulations.
3. The service of every radiotelephone station aboard a ship registered in the Kingdom of Tonga and every radiotelephone land station in the Kingdom of Tonga shall be controlled by an operator holding a certificate issued in accordance with these regulations:

Provided that the station is so controlled, other persons besides the holder of the certificate may use the radiotelephone equipment.
4. The service of radiotelephone ship or land stations operating solely on frequencies above 30 megacycles per second, other than those stations working on frequencies assigned for international use, may be performed and controlled by a person who does not hold a certificate. The service of a portable radiotelephone station operating in the bands above 25 megacycles per second other than on frequencies assigned for international use, may be performed and controlled by a person who does not hold a certificate, provided that the radiated power of the transmitter does not exceed one watt.²

5. A First or Second class Postmaster-General's Certificate of Competency in Radiotelegraphy issued by the Government of a Commonwealth country shall be deemed to have been issued in accordance with these regulations, and shall be valid for the operation by the holder of any radiotelegraph station aboard a ship registered in the Kingdom of Tonga, and for the control and operation of any radiotelephone station aboard a ship registered in the Kingdom of Tonga or radiotelephone land station in the Kingdom of Tonga, provided that the certificate is not endorsed limiting its validity to the operation of radiotelegraph stations exclusively.
6. In the case of complete unavailability of the operator in the course of a sea passage, and solely as a temporary measure, the master or the person responsible for the station may authorize an operator holding a certificate other than one issued in accordance with these regulations or recognized under these regulations to perform the radiocommunications service.
7. When it is necessary to employ a person not in possession of a certificate authorized by these regulations as a temporary operator, his performance of such must be limited solely to signals of distress, urgency and safety; messages relating thereto; and urgent messages relating to the movement of the ship. Persons employed in these cases are bound by the provisions of the Telegraph Act regarding the secrecy of correspondence.
8. In all cases, such temporary operators must be replaced as soon as possible by operators holding a certificate prescribed by these regulations.
9. Each certificate issued under the provisions of these regulations shall bear the holder's signature, and the date and place of his birth.
10. Each successful candidate for a radiotelegraph or radiotelephone operator's certificate must sign a declaration that he will preserve the secrecy of radiocommunications correspondence in the manner and on the form prescribed by section 20 of the Telegraph Act,³ and shall be bound by those sections of the Telegraph Act relating to the secrecy of telecommunications correspondence.
11. Certificates issued under the provisions of these regulations shall be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue. They may be cancelled or suspended at any time at the discretion of the Minister.⁴
12. The issue of a renewal certificate or the re-issue of a cancelled or suspended certificate without further examination of the holder shall be at the discretion of the Minister.⁵

13. Certificates shall be cancelled if the holder has not been officially engaged as a radiotelephone or radiotelegraph operator as the case may be, for a period of 24 consecutive months, or has not been officially engaged as a radiotelephone or radiotelegraph operator as the case may be, for more than 12 full months in any 36 consecutive months.
14. Certificates issued under these regulations shall not be applicable to amateur experimental stations.
15. Classes of certificates that may be issued under these regulations are the Radio Telegraph Operator's Special Certificate, the Radio Telephone Operator's General Certificate and the Radio Telephone Operator's Restricted Certificate.
16. A Radiotelegraph Operator's Special Certificate may be issued to candidates who have given proof of the knowledge and professional qualifications enumerated below —
 - (a) ability to send correctly by hand and receive correctly by ear in the Morse code, code groups (mixed letters, figures and punctuation marks) at a speed of 16 groups a minute, and plain language text at a speed of 20 words a minute. Each code group shall comprise 5 characters, each figure or punctuation mark counting as 2 characters. The average word of the text in plain language shall contain 5 characters;
 - (b) ability to send correctly and receive correctly by telephone;
 - (c) knowledge of that part of the Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea which relates to radiotelegraph and radiotelephone communications;
 - (d) knowledge of the regulations applying to the operation of radiotelegraph and radiotelephone communications;
 - (e) knowledge of the regulations governing the acceptance, transmission and reception of radiotelegrams;
 - (f) knowledge of the care and maintenance of accumulators;
 - (g) knowledge of the operation and adjustment of typical radiotelegraph and radiotelephone apparatus.
17. The examination for the Radiotelegraph Operator's Special Certificate shall consist of a one-hour written paper for each of sections (c), (d) and (e), and of oral and practical examination for each of the other sections.
18. Examinations for Radiotelegraph Operator's Special Certificate shall be conducted in the English language, and certificates will be issued only to those successful candidates who display an adequate knowledge of the English language.

19. A Radiotelegraph Operator's Special Certificate may be limited exclusively to the radiotelegraph service. In such cases the certificate shall be suitably endorsed.
20. The holder of a Radiotelegraph Operator's Special Certificate is authorized to operate licensed ship stations in which the radiotelegraph or radiotelephone installation is provided but not prescribed by international agreements.
21. A Radiotelephone Operator's General Certificate may be issued to candidates who have given proof of the knowledge and professional qualifications enumerated below —
- (a) knowledge of the elementary principles of radiotelephony;
 - (b) ability to send correctly and to receive correctly by telephone;
 - (c) knowledge of that part of the Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea which relates to radiotelephone communications;
 - (d) knowledge of the regulations applying to the operation of the radiotelephone communications;
 - (e) knowledge of the regulations governing the acceptance, transmission and reception of radiotelegrams;
 - (f) knowledge of the care and maintenance of accumulators;
 - (g) knowledge of the operation and adjustment of typical radiotelephone apparatus.
22. The examination for the Radiotelephone Operator's General Certificate shall consist of a one-hour written paper for each of sections (c), (d) and (e), and/or oral and practical examinations for each of the other sections.
23. Examinations for the Radiotelephone Operator's General Certificate shall be conducted in the English language, and certificates will be issued only to those successful candidates who display an adequate knowledge of the English language.
24. The holder of a Radiotelephone Operator's General Certificate is authorized to carry out the radiotelephone service of any licenced ship, station or licenced land station.
25. A Radiotelephone Operator's Restricted Certificate may be issued to candidates who have given proof of the knowledge and professional qualifications enumerated below —
- (a) practical knowledge of radiotelephone operation and procedure;
 - (b) ability to send correctly and to receive correctly by telephone;
 - (c) general knowledge of the regulations applying to radiotelephone communications and specifically of that part of those regulations relating to the safety of life at sea;

- (d) practical knowledge of the adjustment of the radiotelephone apparatus on which the candidate will be employed.
26. The examination for the Radiotelephone Operator's Restricted Certificates shall be an oral one.
27. A knowledge of the English language is not essential for the holder of a Radiotelephone Operator's Restricted Certificate.
28. The holder of a Radiotelephone Operator's Restricted Certificate is authorized to operate licensed radiotelephone stations aboard ships registered in the Kingdom of Tonga and land radiotelephone stations within the Kingdom of Tonga provided that —
- (a) in the case of ship stations the carrier power of the transmitter does not exceed 100 watts, and in the case of land stations the carrier power of the transmitter does not exceed 10 watts; and that, in either case, the operation of the transmitter requires only the use of simple external switching devices, excluding all manual adjustments of frequency determining elements, and that the stability of the frequencies is maintained by the transmitter itself within the limits prescribed by the Radio Regulations, Geneva, 1959, and subsequent regulations;
 - (b) in the case of ship stations, communications are restricted to matters relating to the ship's business only; and in the case of land stations, communications are restricted to matters relating to the business or personal affairs of the licensee only.
29. A Radiotelephone Operator's Restricted Certificate may be limited to the operation by the holder of a specified ship or land station, and/or limited to the operation by the holder of stations aboard ships engaged on voyages within Tongan waters exclusively. In such cases the certificate shall be suitably endorsed.
30. Applications for examination for a radiotelegraph or radiotelephone operator's certificate shall be made in writing to the Secretary of the Department of Communications, Nuku'alofa, and accompanied by an examination fee of \$1.⁶
31. Should a candidate be unsuccessful in passing the examination, a further application must be made at a later date, and further examination fee paid.
32. A candidate who fails in any one or more sections of the examination and applies for re-examination at a later date will be required to sit the full examination.
33. Certificates may be issued to successful candidates on payment of a fee of \$1.

34. After the expiration of certificates, renewal certificates will be issued on payment of a fee of \$1. Should, however, the holder be required to be re-examined, a further examination fee of \$1 must also be paid.
35. Land stations owned and operated by the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga for the internal public telegraph and communication services shall be exempt from the provisions of these regulations.⁷
36. Except as provided under regulations 4, 6 and 7, any person not holding a valid certificate issued in accordance with these regulations, who operates a radiotelegraph land station in the Kingdom of Tonga, or aboard a vessel registered in Tonga, or who operates a radiotelephone land station in the Kingdom of Tonga or aboard a vessel registered in Tonga which is not controlled by an operator holding a certificate issued in accordance with these regulations, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$40 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 3 months.⁸

SCHEDULE

KINGDOM OF TONGA

RADIOTELEGRAPH OPERATOR'S SPECIAL CERTIFICATE

No

Issued under the provisions of the Radio Regulations, Geneva, 1959

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

has given proof of the knowledge and professional qualifications enumerated below
—

- (a) ability to send correctly by hand and receive correctly by ear in the Morse code, code groups at a speed of 16 words a minute, and plain language text at a speed of 20 words a minute;
- (b) ability to send correctly and receive correctly by telephone;
- (c) knowledge of that part of the Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea which relates to radiotelegraph and radiotelephone communications;
- (d) knowledge of the regulations applying to the operation of radiotelegraph and radiotelephone communications;
- (e) knowledge of the regulations governing the acceptance, transmission and reception of radiotelegrams;
- (f) knowledge of the care and maintenance of accumulators;
- (g) knowledge of the operation and adjustment of typical radiotelegraph and radiotelephone apparatus.

It is also certified that the holder of this certificate has executed a declaration that he will preserve the secrecy of correspondence.

THE HOLDER OF THIS CERTIFICATE IS AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE LICENSED SHIP STATIONS IN WHICH THE RADIOTELEGRAPH AND RADIOTELEPHONE INSTALLATION IS PROVIDED BUT NOT PRESCRIBED BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

By authority of the Radiocommunication Act

Date of issue

Date of expiry

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Prime Minister

Signature of holder

Date of birthPlace of birth

KINGDOM OF TONGA

RADIOTELEPHONE OPERATOR'S GENERAL CERTIFICATE

No

Issued under the provisions of the Radio Regulations, Geneva, 1959

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

.....has given proof of the knowledge and professional qualifications enumerated below —

- (a) knowledge of the elementary principles of radiotelephony;
- (b) ability to send correctly and receive correctly by telephone;
- (c) knowledge of that part of the Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea which relates to radiotelephone communications;
- (d) knowledge of the regulations applying to the operation of radiotelephone communications;
- (e) knowledge of the regulations governing the acceptance, transmission and reception of radiotelegrams;
- (f) knowledge of the care and maintenance of accumulators;
- (g) knowledge of the operation and adjustment of typical radiotelephone apparatus.

It is also certified that the holder of this certificate has executed a declaration that he will preserve the secrecy of correspondence.

THE HOLDER OF THIS CERTIFICATE IS AUTHORIZED TO CARRY OUT THE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICE OF ANY LICENSED SHIP STATION OR LICENSED LAND STATION

By authority of the Radiocommunication Act

Date of issue

Date of expiry

.....
Prime Minister

Signature of holder

Date of birthPlace of birth

KINGDOM OF TONGA

RADIOTELEPHONE OPERATOR’S RESTRICTED CERTIFICATE

No

Issued under the provisions of the Radio Regulations, Geneva, 1959

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

has given proof of the knowledge and professional qualifications enumerated below
—

- (a) practical knowledge of radiotelephone operation and procedure;
- (b) ability to send correctly and receive correctly by telephone;
- (c) general knowledge of the regulations applying to radiotelephone communications and specifically of that part of those regulations relating to the safety of life.

It is also certified that the holder of this certificate has executed a declaration that he will preserve the secrecy of correspondence.

THE HOLDER OF THIS CERTIFICATE IS AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE LICENSED RADIOTELEPHONE STATIONS ABOARD SHIPS REGISTERED IN THE KINGDOM OF TONGA AND LICENSED LAND RADIOTELEPHONE STATIONS WITHIN THE KINGDOM OF TONGA SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF REGULATION 28 OF THE RADIOTELEPHONE OPERATOR’S CERTIFICATES REGULATIONS
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By authority of the Radiocommunication Act

Date of issue

Date of expiry

.....
Prime Minister

Signature of holder

Date of birthPlace of birth

ENDNOTES

¹ **1988 Revised Edition, Cap. 98**; GS 78/61, GS1/63

Amended by GS 10A/2000

² Amended by GS 1 of 1963

³ Cap. 35.06

⁴ Amended by GS 10 of 2000 -A

⁵ Amended by GS 10 of 2000 -A

⁶ Amended by GS 10 of 2000 -A

⁷ Amended by GS 10 of 2000 -A

⁸ Added by GS 1 of 1963