



Agentschap Telecom
Ministerie van Economische Zaken

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Newsletter

Telecommunications and Post Dutch Caribbean

1st edition, May 2016

Dear reader,

Through this newsletter, the Radiocommunications Agency Netherlands (RA) and the Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM) provide the residents of the Dutch Caribbean and the parties in the telecommunications and postal market with information about important developments in the sector. This is the first Newsletter of 2016.

In the past year, RA and ACM as executive and supervisory government agencies for telecommunications in the Dutch Caribbean have given a lot of consideration to the Telecommunications Spearheads BES for 2015. This is done in collaboration with the Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post, the operational authorized agent on behalf of RA en ACM, out of the office of Bonaire.

Simplification concession conditions

In the scope of the aim to reduce the administrative burden for concession holders and authorization holders, a number of conditions for telecommunications services will be simplified or deleted entirely

As a result of this, the concession holders will have fewer obligations imposed on them, without prejudice to the service provision to the user.

RA has now simplified all the mobile concessions that were issued. In the short term, the simplifications will also be implemented in the concessions for local telecommunications and concessions for long distance telecommunications.

Amendments in regulations

Apart from the simplification of concessions, important amendments in the telecommunications regulations were implemented. In the first place, there were the rates for the mobile concessions paid to RA and ACM by mobile operators. These have been reduced and even partially deleted, owing to an amendment of the Regulation for fees of telecommunications concessions Radiocommunications Agency Netherlands, BES 2015 and the concessions themselves.

The reduction of the rates is expected to extend to improvement of the quality of service of



mobile operators or the subscription fees (prepaid and postpaid).
Second, there is the national subsidy scheme Economic Affairs and published in the Government Gazette of 22 April 2016 (Nr. 21440). Mobile concession holders on the BES islands may apply for subsidy as of 1 July 2016, for the improvement of networks and the realization of telecommunications facilities in the interest of the general public, for example for education and health care.

In the third place, the Regulation exemption telecommunications authorization BES 2016 was amended for citizens and businesses. This created an expansion of the possibilities for the use of radio equipment without an authorization being required for this. Information about the applications you may use without the requirement of an authorization are set out here below.

Applications free from authorization BES

The rapid developments in the telecommunications sector caused a strong rise in the number of applications for the authorization-free regime. This concerns radio transmission equipment as part of a radio-electrical transmission system, which is basically intended for signals to bridge short distances and which have minor transmission capacity. Such transmission systems, in their nature and size have little chance of causing a breakdown on the appointed frequency or frequencies.

In order to facilitate these rapid developments in the telecommunications sector this regulation further specifies:

- For which categories of transmission systems authorization is not required;
- Which frequencies these designated categories of transmission systems may use;
- Which prescriptions apply on the use of the designated categories of transmission systems and the corresponding frequencies.

Authorization-free transmission systems may only use frequencies designated by the Minister, where the users in most cases share the designated frequency bands with other users. An authorization-free user is therefore not entitled to protection against breakdowns and obstructions

caused by other authorization-free users. The opposite also applies: the user is not protected against breakdowns and other obstructions caused by other users of authorization-free equipment. This is contrary to users of equipment for which an authorization is required. These users are protected against this.

The applications included in this regulation are:

- Telephones connected to the public mobile infrastructure;
- Peripheral equipment for communication by way of a public satellite network, with the exception of maritime communication systems;
- Wireless telephones and DECT telephones;
- Equipment in the 27MHz-band (citizens band), also known as CB radio;
- Peripheral equipment for positioning;
- Handheld transceivers and radio-telephones that form part of a trunking network;
- PMR446 (walkie-talkies) and Family Radio;
- Various so-called Short Range Devices for alarms, telemetric, telecommand, hearing aids, etc.;
- Broadband data systems, RLANs, WiFi;
- Applications for road transportation and traffic telematics, intelligent transportation systems, tracking & tracing;
- Motion detection;
- Social alarm, calling systems;
- Medical implants;
- Wireless audio systems and microphones for persons in need of help;
- Model control
- Inductive systems and RFID;
- Short-range radar equipment for motor vehicles;
- Smart meters (for utility systems)
- Ultra-wide band systems
- Receiving stations for satellite television

You should make sure the equipment used has a CE approval mark and/or a FCC approval mark and only uses the permitted frequencies and conditions, as referred to in the regulation.

Maritime radio exams

The maritime radio exams to receive a certificate to operate radio transmission systems in the



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shipping industry are conducted twice a year. The last radio exams were conducted in November 2015. The next radio exams will be conducted in May 2016.

Those interested in taking radio exams may register at the office of the Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post in Bonaire. The registration form may be obtained there as well.

The exact data for the exams to be conducted will be announced in local newspapers. Persons who have already registered will be informed of the dates personally.

Contact information

Applications, questions, complaints, recommendations and all other correspondence may be sent to the office address of the Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post in Bonaire or be sent by e-mail to bonaire@burtel.cw:

Or

Radiocommunications Agency Netherlands
Attention mr. B.T. van Duijvenvoorde

Authority Consumers & Markets
Attention mr. drs. J.G.J. Keetelaar

Address: Kaya Grandi 69
P.O. Box 791
Kralendijk, Bonaire
Dutch Caribbean
Tel.: (+599) 717-3140
Fax: (+599) 717-3554