



Newsletter

Telecommunication and Post

Dutch Caribbean

Dear reader,

This is the first Newsletter of the year 2013, through which Radiocommunications Agency Netherlands (the Radiocommunications Agency) and the Authority Consumer and Market (ACM) inform the residents of the Dutch Caribbean and telecommunications and postal parties in the market of sector-specific facts, events and developments.

Responsible institutions as per 2013

As of 10 October 2010, the minister of Economic Affairs (EZ) is responsible for the telecommunications and postal policies in the Dutch Caribbean, including the execution and the supervision.

The Radiocommunications Agency, as part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, was appointed operator and supervisor for telecommunications affairs in the Dutch Caribbean. The Radiocommunications Agency also temporarily performed the tasks that in the Dutch context are within the field of the market supervisor, the Independent Post and Telecommunications Authority (OPTA).

As of 1 January 2013, the Radiocommunications Agency transferred the tasks it performed temporarily to the OPTA and as of that time OPTA has been responsible for the performance of (supervisory) tasks in the field of post, mandatory communication services, end-user tariffs, issue of numbers and dispute settlement.

The other supervisory tasks arising from the Telecommunications Act BES shall remain the responsibility of the Radiocommunications Agency. In the Dutch Caribbean, the Radiocommunications Agency is responsible for granting concessions and authorizations and the supervision on the compliance with the concession and authorization conditions, controlling the frequency spectrum, inspecting the telecommunication networks and radio transmitter and receiver equipment, granting type approval to peripheral equipment and managing call signs and network codes.

As of 1 April 2013 the Dutch Consumer Authority the Netherlands Competition Authority (NMa) Independent Post and Telecommunications Authority (OPTA) joined forces to form a new supervisor: the Authority Consumer and Market (ACM). In the



Netherlands, the Authority Consumer and Market is an independent supervisor for consumers and businesses. After this merger, the (supervisory) tasks of OPTA in the Dutch Caribbean became part of the responsibility of ACM.

In performing these tasks, the Radiocommunications Agency and ACM apply the one-stop shop philosophy, so parties in the Dutch Caribbean have one point of contact, which is the “Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post” (BT&P). This means that BT&P, on the instructions and under responsibility of AT and ACM will provide for the execution of the WTV BES and the WPO BES and the supervision that it is complied with.

The actual decisions are taken by the Radiocommunications Agency and ACM and/or – when policy aspects are (also) involved – by the Ministry of EZ.

Continuation collaboration the Radiocommunications Agency, ACM and BT&P

The Radiocommunications Agency and BT&P have expanded and extended the close and intensive collaboration in the field of supervision on the telecommunication and postal markets in the Dutch Caribbean, which expired on 31 December 2012 for another four years. The new collaboration between the Radiocommunications Agency, ACM and BT&P was entered into as of 1 January 2013, for a period of four years, to expire on 31 December 2016.



On the picture from left to right are Johan Keetelaar (ACM), Joao de Canha (BT&P) and Peter Spijkerman the Radiocommunications Agency

After the new collaboration was signed in Curaçao, in the period between 16 and 22 April 2013, there had been working visits to Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius for consultations with the government councils, the concession holders and other market parties.

Requests, questions, complaints, recommendations and all other correspondence may be submitted to the office address of the “Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post” op Bonaire and addressed to:

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Or

The Netherlands Authority, Consumer & Market
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The “Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post” in Bonaire can be reached by telephone at the following numbers:

Tel.: (+599) 717-3140
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Radio Exams

There were many registrations for the Radio Exams that were conducted on behalf of the Radiocommunications Agency in November 2012. The next exams are planned for the month of June 2013 and the month of November 2013. Those interested in taking Radio Exams may register in advance for the next exams, at the Front-Office of the “Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post” in Bonaire. The registration form may also be requested there. The exact dates for the next exams to be conducted will be announced in the local newspapers. Candidates who have registered will be informed of the date directly.