

## Australian Government – Australian Communications and Media Authority

### Amateur radio call sign policy *(extract)*

APRIL 2024

#### **VK0 and VK9 (2 and 3 letters)**

Call signs assigned with the prefix VK0 (with either a 2 or 3 letter suffix) can only be assigned to amateur operators currently located in, or who provide information to show that they will soon be located in, the Antarctic. Call signs assigned with the prefix VK0 must only be used when the operator is located in the Antarctic.<sup>1</sup>

Call signs assigned with the prefix VK9 (with either a 2- or 3-letter suffix) can only be assigned to amateur operators intending to visit, or who already reside on, Australian islands or external territories, other than the Antarctic. Call signs assigned with the prefix VK9 must only be used when the operator is located in an Australian external territory.<sup>2</sup> The following are Australian external territories:

- > Coral Sea Islands
- > Ashmore and Cartier Islands
- > Norfolk Island
- > Cocos Keeling Islands
- > Christmas Island
- > Heard and McDonald Islands

Some territories in the above list also include smaller islands, which are part of that external territory. For example, Mellish Reef and Willis Islands are part of the Coral Sea Islands territory.

Applications for use of VK0 and VK9 call signs will not be approved if they are made for use on an island that is not an Australian external territory, for example, Lord Howe Island.

#### **Application for VK0 and VK9 call signs**

Our website lists the fee to apply for the assignment of a [call sign with the prefix VK0 or VK9](#) and our [Cost Recovery Implementation Statement: Fees for radiocommunications, telecommunications and broadcasting services](#) explains how fees are set.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 12 (7) of the [Radiocommunications \(Amateur Stations\) Class Licence 2023](#).

<sup>2</sup> Section 12 (8) of the [Radiocommunications \(Amateur Stations\) Class Licence 2023](#).

These call signs are assigned for a period of 12 months. We may extend the period that the call sign holder is able to continue using the call sign by re-assigning the call sign, if sufficient information is provided to justify the call sign period being extended. Applicants can either seek to be assigned a preferred call sign from the public register or the next available call sign of its type.

The following information needs to be provided when applying for a call sign with the prefix VK0 or VK9:

- > **Prefix VK0** – evidence of a posting or a planned posting to an Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition (ANARE) station or base in the form of an authorisation letter from ANARE.
- > **Prefix VK9:**
  - > for major islands with a regular air service (Norfolk Island, Cocos-Keeling Island and Christmas Island), evidence of the amateur operator’s residence on the island. An example of this type of evidence includes a copy of a utility bill, rental document or rates notice.
  - > for remote islands (Coral Sea Islands, Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Heard and McDonald Island), an authorisation letter from the authority in charge of the island confirming that the amateur operator will reside on the island.

We may decide not to assign a call sign of this type if the amateur operator does not provide sufficient information to satisfy the ACMA that the holder will be, or is currently, residing in the location.

*[Section extracted from [the original ACMA publication](#)]*