

ADVISORY

Removal of Morse code requirement from Regulations to the Radio & Telegraph Control Act

Parliament, as at July 2017, has approved amendments to the Radio and Telegraph Control (Amateur Radio Service) Regulations and the Radio and Telegraph Control (Radio Operations and Technicians) Regulations of 1974, by removing the requirement for Amateur Operators and Radio Operators and Technicians to be proficient in the use of Morse Code in order to be licensed. The amendments were premised on the fact that Morse Code has been superseded by more modern and efficient modes of communications and is no longer a mandatory international requirement.

In light of the forgoing, the Spectrum Management Authority (SMA) in partnership with the Jamaica Amateur Radio Associations (JARA) is currently reviewing the existing amateur radio licence examination to align the exam with these changes and develop a framework to guide the process going forward. It is anticipated that this review will be completed **on or before January 2018**. Unfortunately, in the interim, applications for licences to be upgraded to a higher licence class cannot be accommodated.

We take this opportunity to thank our current and future clients for their patience and ask that you continue to exercise such patience as we work to ensure that the integrity of these licences is maintained.

Feel free to contact us at info@sma.gov.jm or 948-7800/922-8884 if you have any questions.