



Government of Barbados

## **BARBADOS CALL SIGN POLICY**

### **Policy in accordance with sections 4(2)(b) and 4(2)(f) of the Telecommunications Act 2001-36.**

This document outlines the allocation, function and appropriate use of call signs in Barbados as set by the Telecommunications Unit in the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities.

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 All stations opened to international public correspondence, and capable of causing harmful interference beyond its national boundary as in the case of Amateur Radio Service; the station shall carry a call sign in conformity with <sup>1</sup>International Call Sign Series allocated to the administration by the ITU.
- 1.2 All transmissions shall be capable of being identified either by identification signals or any other means such as:
  - Speech, using simple amplified or frequency modulation
  - International Morse Code transmitted and manual speech
  - A telegraph code compatible with conventional printing equipment
- 1.3 All transmissions in the following services should carry identification signals:
  - Amateur service
  - Broadcasting service
  - Fixed service in the bands below 28,000 KHz
  - Mobile service
  - Standard frequency and time signal service
- 1.4 Exceptions to this rule are as follows:
  - Survival craft stations when transmitting distress signals automatically
  - Emergency Position Indicating Radiobeacons [Except transmissions by satellite EPIRBs operating in the band 406-406.1 MHz, or the band 1645.5-1646.5 MHz or by EPIRBs using digital selective calling techniques.]

---

<sup>1</sup> Table of Allocations of International Call Sign Series

- 1.5 In accordance with ITU specifications the prefix for Barbadian call signs is “8P”.

## **2. ALLOCATION AND UTILISATION OF CALL SIGNS**

### **Amateur Radio**

- 2.1 A Barbadian call sign is issued to any person who is eligible for and successfully acquires the Radio Amateur Licence from the Telecommunications Unit under the umbrella of the Government of Barbados. An individual who is a citizen of another country who does not possess a Barbadian Radio Amateur Licence may be authorized to use his/her call sign with the permission of the Telecommunications Unit. This only applies to those persons who attained their Amateur Licence at the General and Extra level.
- 2.2 Individuals from other territories who wish to be assigned a Barbadian call sign must first submit this request in writing to the Chief Telecommunications Officer.
- 2.3 Call signs which are allocated to Barbadian nationals are identified by the prefix “8P6”, whereas those which are assigned to non-nationals are identified by the prefix “8P9”.
- 2.4 Call signs are assigned to an individual for a lifetime. However there are cases when a call sign becomes available for re-assignment. In the case of the operator’s death the call sign remains reserved or in ‘Silent Key’ status for a period of three (3) years, after which the call sign becomes available once more.
- 2.5 Call signs are allocated to Radio Amateur operators in a sequential manner selected by the Telecommunications Unit. Operators are not allowed to select his/her call sign. This is, unless the request is made for the re-assigning of a call sign of an immediate family member whose call sign has been in the ‘Silent Key’ status for the prescribed period of time.
- 2.6 If a call sign is required only for an event then a 1x1 Special Event call sign may be obtained. Reservations must be made in writing to the Chief Telecommunications Officer at least one month in advance of the event.
- 2.7 In calling another station, the call sign of that station shall be sent at least three times but no more than eight times after which the signal ‘de’ for ‘from’ shall be sent once and the call sign of the calling station three times. When a station does not reply after three attempts to contact that station with two (2) minute interval between each attempt, the calling should cease and resume after at least a fifteen (15) minute interval.

- 2.8 In answering a call, the call sign of the calling station shall be sent three (3) times, the signal 'de' once and the call sign of the answering station three times.

### **Aircraft**

- 2.9 Aircrafts have two means of identification. One of which is the aircraft registration number and the other is the aircraft call sign. The allocation of the registration number to aircrafts is the responsibility of the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization). This number is allocated to the aircraft as soon as it leaves the assembly line and is determined based on the country from which the aircraft would be operating within, for example an aircraft operating from Barbados would be issued a registration number which begins with the prefix '8P', it is unique to that aircraft and is valid for the lifetime of the aircraft. The call sign of the aircraft however, may be changed at any point. Commercial airlines usually have registered call signs for each aircraft, which remains unique and unchanged during the lifetime of the aircraft. Private aircrafts do not usually register their call sign and often use their aircraft registration number as their call sign.
- 2.10 Before an aircraft travels to any destination a flight plan is sent in advance, this flight plan informs the authorities at the intended destination of the call sign and registration number of the aircraft. On arrival into the scheduled destination the pilot identifies his aircraft to the control tower, thereafter the control tower would use that call sign to address the aircraft during its stopover in the destination.

### **Citizen Band (CB)**

- 2.11 Unlike Amateur Radio operators CB operators are allowed to choose their own call sign. This call sign is often referred to as a 'handle'. During the application process the CB operator indicates his/her personal choice as their call sign.
- 2.12 The CB operator must identify his/her CB station at the Beginning and Ending of each communication.

### **Ship Station**

- 2.13 Ship station call signs are allocated by the Telecommunications Unit in a sequential manner. This call sign is used through out the lifetime of the ship as a means of identifying the vessel. Vessels who already have a call sign from their respective countries may use their own call sign while in Barbados or may request a Barbadian Ship Station Call sign in which case a letter should be sent to the Chief Telecommunications Officer stating their wish to be temporarily allocated a Barbadian Ship Station call sign for the duration of their stay.

- 2.14 In the event that the station changes ownership, it is the duty of the new owner to inform the Ministry of the owner's name and address, and any changes to the Stations Registration number and name.
- 2.15 When a ship station is destroyed or taken out of service and no longer requires a call sign a letter must be sent to the Chief Telecommunications Officer requesting that the call sign be discontinued. After the period of one (1) year this call sign is available for re-assignment.
- 2.16 National and non-national call sign prefixes are assigned in accordance with "**Amateur Radio**: paragraph 3".
- 2.17 On approach into the port of destination the vessel would use its call sign to identify itself to the port authorities, after which, before each line of communication the vessel is addressed by the authorities using that call sign.

### **VHF**

- 2.18 The Telecommunications Unit assigns the call signs associated with this mode of communication sequentially. A company or an individual is allocated a particular set of call signs depending on the number of repeaters, base and hand held pieces of equipment they are licenced for. These call signs are also for a lifetime. If at any point the operator wishes to discontinue the use of his/her licence for a particular piece of equipment a letter must be sent to the Chief Telecommunications Officer notifying the Telecommunications Unit of such a change.
- 2.19 The operator must identify his/her station at the Beginning and Ending of each communication.

### **Licences**

- 2.20 Licences for all mentioned communication systems are renewable annually and expire on December 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. Failure to comply with the regulations set out in The Telecommunications (Licence Fees) Regulations 2003, will result in action being taken by the Chief Telecommunications Officer in accordance with section 13 of The Telecommunications Act 2001-36. The call sign would be withdrawn from the individual after a period of time prescribed by the Chief Telecommunications Officer.