

The new call sign system in the Russian Federation

It was a good time when it was easy to identify with whom you were going to deal with. We even got familiar with all those changes after the collapse of the Soviet Union, but once more a reform of the call sign system in Russia might cause some new difficulties. Short call signs may be asked for now and many operators do so. At first sight the new system looks more complicated, but a closer look will help to understand it.

This paper is trying to explain the system which is valid in Russia since mid 2010. Some rules for the formation of call signs are logical, some others are less understandable or less important for us.

In Russia call signs for the amateur radio service are based on the 26 letters of the Latin alphabet and the figures 1-0. The prefix is formed by the letter "R" or by two letters "RA – RZ" or "UA – UI", (indicating the affiliation to the Russian Federation), followed by a figure.

The suffix is formed by up to four characters, but special call signs for certain occasions may have more than four. Call signs which are similar to emergency codes, the series QRA – QTZ and those being "vulgar" will not be issued.

It is the figure of the prefix and the first letter of the suffix that indicate the territorial affiliation of the amateur radio station to a certain part of Russia. One has to take into account that the Russian Federation has been re-grouped, e.g. some regional districts (Oblasti) have been merged. Further changes can be expected in the future.

Details are given in table 1

Exceptions from these rules were made for the call RAEM (E.T. Krenkel) and for identifiers used during ARDF activities.

Amateur radio stations of category 1

(in accordance with CEPT and HAREC) will get call signs from the following groups:

R0AA – R9ZZ (except the suffix „HQ“)

RA0AA – RZ9ZZ (except prefixes RB0–RB9, RE0-RE9, RH0-RH9, RI0-RI9, RP0-RP9, RR0 –RR9, RS0-RS9)

UA0AA – UI9ZZ

RA0A – RZ9Z (except prefixes RB0–RB9, RE0-RE9, RH0-RH9, RI0-RI9, RP0-RP9, RR0 – RR9, RS0-RS9)

UA0A – UI9Z

Amateur radio stations of category 2

(in accordance with CEPT and HAREC) will get

R0AAA – R9ZZZ (except the suffix „SRR“)

RA0AAA – RZ9ZZZ (except prefixes RB0–RB9, RE0-RE9, RH0-RH9, RI0-RI9, RP0-RP9, RR0 – RR9, RS0-RS9)

UA0AAA – UA9ZZZ

Amateur radio stations of category 3

(in accordance with CEPT NOVICE and HAREC) are given

UB0AAA – UD9ZZZ and **UF0AAA – UG0ZZZ**

Amateur radio stations of category 4

UE0AAA – UE9ZZZ and **UH0AAA – UI9ZZZ**.

For training and for multiple discipline competitions

UB0AAAA – UB9ZZZZ

Repeaters:

RR0AA – RR9ZZ and RR0AAA – RR9ZZZ

Beacons:

RB0AA – RB9ZZ

Amateur Radio Satellites:

RS0AA – RS9ZZ

Special call signs (temporary)**Amateur radio stations in space:**

RS00ISS – RS99ISS

**Amateur radio stations on drifting ice floe in the polar area
(the figure indicates the number of the polar station)**

R00SP – R99SP

Amateur radio stations in the Antarctic and on Islands – cf. Table 2

RI

Amateur radio stations for special events of the Russian Amateur Radio Society SRR:

(SRR - Soyus Radiolyubitelej Rossii)

R0SRR - R9SRR and R0HQ – R9HQ

Amateur radio stations to commemorate E. T. Krenkel (only):

RAEM

Amateur radio stations in the program „POBEDA – VICTORY“

RP0 – RP9 (suffix may not exceed 4 letters)

The following groups are reserved for special occasions:

**R0AAAA – R9ZZZZ, R00AAA – R99ZZZ, R000A – R999Z, R000AA – R999ZZ,
R0000A – R9999Z, RA00A – RZ99Z, RA00AA – RZ99ZZ, RA000A – RZ999Z, RA000AA –
RZ999ZZ**

Amateur radio stations for special competitions (e.g. WRTC 2010)

R0A – R9Z, R00A – R99Z, R00AA – R99ZZ

(except R00SP – R99SP)

Call signs for amateur radio stations of category 3 and 4 will be issued in alphabetical order, whereas holder of license category 1 and 2 may opt for a vacant call sign according to their residential area. Call signs that do not correspond to the new system may be used further if issued before 2010.

A cancelled call sign will not be re-issued within a period of ten years.

Special call signs issued for a limited time period may not be used in contests (HF, VHF etc.).

Appendices to call signs have to be used as follows:

(in CW: “ / “ , in phone “дровь” or „slash“)

- For a temporary activity in another area of the Russian Federation as indicated in the license paper the figure corresponding to this temporary area (see table 3) has to be appended (/ **figure**). An appendix is not to be used when moving to another place within the home area.
- In training activities by other persons under supervision of a license holder the letter “N” is to be appended (“ / N “), but not allowed in a contest.
- If one’s own station is used as a relay station (echo repeater), „**RR**“ has to be added (/ **RR**).
- If one’s own station is used temporarily as a beacon the letters “RB” have to be added (/ **RB**).

In addition to that the following add-ons may be used (not mandatory):

- „/p“ if portable under field-day conditions (autonomous power supply) and with handholds.
- „/m“ mobile (car, motor cycle, boat on inland lake etc.)
- „/mm“ on high sea going vessels
- „/am“ on registered flying aircraft
- „/s“ on spacecraft

Temporary special call signs will be issued only for the following occasion:

- on the occasion of international and national events or jubilees, governmental festivities and officially planned events in Russia, generally based on an edict or decree by the president or the government of the Russian Federation;
- on the occasion of festivities at an anniversary of historical dates which are based on a decree by a territorial organ;
- at commemoration days of radio and broadcasting;
- for participation in an international and national „direct“ amateur radio championship;
- for the program „POBEDA - VICTORY“;
- for amateur radio activities on drifting polar stations, cosmic objects, in the Antarctic and on islands according to table 2;

During a short temporary stay in the Russian Federation foreign radio amateurs should put the letter R plus the figure of their location (according to table 3) in front of their call sign.

For example, in Moscow and the Moscow area DL5EBE must use the call sign R3/DL5EBE, in the Kaliningrad area R2/DL5EBE accordingly.

Call signs for ARDF will be MOE, MOI, MOS etc, according to international practice, for the 80 and 2 m band with a maximal power of 5 watts.

The new Russian license document is printed in Russian and English language and has a note about the CEPT HAREC compatibility. This led to hopeful speculations that Russian amateurs may operate from other CEPT countries without a special license.

Since Russia has neither signed nor implemented CEPT recommendations TR61-01 and TR61-02 yet, foreign radio amateurs still have to apply for a temporary license in Russia. As CEPT TR61-01 and TR61-02 are a bilateral issue, Russian radio amateurs also still have to apply for a temporary license when going to countries that have implemented these CEPT recommendations. However, the text in the Russian license document may indicate that the next step will follow in the near future.

Sources:

- documents of Roskomnadzor
- Infos by SRR (www.srr.ru)
- Systematic material about basic principle of the formation of call signs of national radio stations – Letter by the deputy chief of ROSKOMNADZOR A.I. Katulevski, dated 21.01.2010, Nr.: KA-00641

Table 1:

Figure in prefix and First letter in suffix	Administrative Area in Russian Federation	Figure in prefix and first letter in suffix	Administrative Area in Russian Federation
Federal Area „North-West“		Federal Area „Wolga-Region“	
1A, 1B	St.Petersburg	2T, 3T, 5T	Nishnegorod region
1C, 1D	Leningrad region	4C, 4D	Saratov region
1N	Republic of Karelia	4F	Pensa region
1O	Archangelsk region	4H, 4I	Samara region
1P	Autonomic area of Nenzen	4L, 4M	Ulyanovsk region
1Q	Vologda region	4N	Kirov region
1T	Novgorod region	4P, 4Q, 4R	Republic of Tatarstan
1W	Pskov region	4S	Republic of Mari-El
1Z	Murmansk region	4U	Republic of Mordovia
2F, 2K	Kaliningrad region	4W	Republic of Udmurtia
8X, 9X	Republic of Komi	4Y	Republic of Chuwashia
		8F, 9F, 8G, 9G	Perm region
Central Federal Area (except RA2 and UA2-UI2)		8S, 9S, 8T, 9T	Orenburg region
2A, 3A, 5A, 2B, 3B, 5B, 2C, 3C, 5C	Moskau	8W, 9W	Republik Bashkortostan (Bashkiria)
2D, 3D, 5D, 3F, 5F, 2H, 3H, 5H	Moscow Region (Ooblast)	Federal Area „Ural-Region“	
2E, 3E, 5E	Orel region	8A, 9A, 8B, 9B	Chelyabinsk region
2G, 3G, 5G	Lipetzk region	8C, 9C, 8D, 9D	Sverdlovsk region
2I, 3I, 5I	Tver region	8J, 9J	Autonomic territory of Chanten and Mansen
2L, 3L, 5L	Smolensk region	8K, 9K	Autonomic territory of Yamalo-Nenezky
2M, 3M, 5M	Yaroslavl region	8L, 9L	Tyumen region
2N, 3N, 5N	Kostroma region	8Q, 9Q, 8R, 9R	Kurgan region
2P, 3P, 5P	Tula region	Federal Area „Sibiria“	
2Q, 3Q, 5Q, 2O, 3O, 5O, 3K, 5K	Voronesh region	8H, 9H, 8I, 9I	Tomsk region
2R, 3R, 5R	Tambov region	8M, 9M, 8N, 9N	Omsk region
2S, 3S, 5S	Ryazan region	8O, 9O	Novosibirsk region
2U, 3U, 5U	Ivanovo region	8U, 9U	Kemerovo region
2V, 3V, 5V	Vladimir region	8Y, 9Y	Altaisky Krai
2W, 3W, 5W	Kursk region	8Z, 9Z	Altai republic
2X, 3X, 5X	Kaluga region	0A, 0B, 0H	Krasnoyarsky Krai
2Y, 3Y, 5Y	Bryansk region	0O	Buryatia republic
2Z, 3Z, 5Z	Belgorod region	0R	Autonomic territory of Ust-Ordinski Buryatski
		0S, 0T	Irkutsk region
Federal Area „South“		0U	Chita region
4A, 4B	Region Volgograd	0V	Autonomic territory of Alinski Buryatski
continued	Federal Area „South“	continued	Federal Area „Sibiria“

6A, 7A, 6B, 7B, 6C, 7C, 6D, 7D	Krasnodarsky Krai (Krasnodar district)	0W	Republic of Chakasia
6E, 7E,	Republic of Karachaevo-Cherkesk	0Y	Rebublic of Tyva (Tuva)
6F, 7F, 6G, 7G, 6H, 7H	Stavropolsky Krai	Federal Area „Far East“	
6I, 7I	Republic of Kalmykien	0C	Chabarovsky Krai
6J, 7J	Republic of North- Ossetia-Alania	0D	Jewish autonomic territory
6L, 7L, 6M, 7M, 6N, 7N	Rostov/Don region	0F	Sachalin region
6P, 7P	Republic of Chetchenia	0I	Magadan region
6Q, 7Q	Republic of Ingushetia	0J	Amur region
6U, 7U	Astrachan region	0K	Autonomic territory of Chukotka
6W, 7W	Republic of Dagestan	0L	Primorsky Krai
6X, 7X	Republic of Kabardino- Balkaria	0Q	Republic of Sacha- Yakutia
6Y, 7Y	Republic of Adygeya	0X	Autonomic territory of Koryaksky
		0Z	Kamchatsky Krai

Table 2:

Territory	Call Sign Groups
Antarctis	RI1ANA - RI1ANZ
Archipelago Franz-Josef-Land and Viktoria-Isl.	RI1FJ, RI1FJA - RI1FJZ
Maly Vysotzky-Isl.	RI1MV, RI1MVA - RI1MVZ
Novaya Zemlya	RI1O, RI1OA - RI1OZ, RI1OAA - RI1OAZ
Kolguyev-Isl.	RI1P, RI1PA - RI1PZ, RI1PAA -RI1PAZ
Severnaya Zemlya (incl. Maly Taimyr, Maiskye Starokadomsky, Gejberg, Sergeya Kirova, Izwesty ZIK, Arkticheskovo institute, Sverdrup, Voronina, Uedineniya, Smidta, Vize, Ushakova)	RI0B, RI0BA - RI0BZ, RI0BAA - RI0BAZ
Iony- Isl.	RI0C, RI0CA - RI0CZ, RI0CAA - RI0CAZ
Kuriles (except Paramushir, Atlas-Isl.)	RI0F, RI0FA - RI0FZ, RI0FAA - RI0FAZ
Wrangel-isl. (incl. Gerald)	RI0K, RI0KA - RI0KZ, RI0KAA - RI0KAZ
Bear-Isl.	RI0QA - RI0QL, RI0QAA - RI0QAZ
Novosibirskie isl.	RI0QM - RI0QZ, RI0QCA - RI0QCZ
Isl. Karapinsky	RI0X, RI0XA - RI0XZ, RI0XAA - RI0XAZ
Kommandeur-Isl.	RI0Z, RI0ZA - RI0ZZ. RI0ZAA - RI0ZAZ
Reserve	RI1N, RI1NA – RI1NZ RI0N, RI0NA – RI0NZ

Table 3:

Figure to add during temporary activity in another area (e.g. RA1AA /6)	Administrative Area of the Russian Federation
Federal Area „North-West“	
1	St.Petersburg, Archangelsk region, Vologda, Leningradskaya, Murmansk, Novgorod, Pskov, Republic of Karelia, Autonomic territoryof Nenzen
2	Kaliningrad area
9	Republic of Komi
Central Federal Area	
3	Moskau, Belgorod region, Bryansk, Vladimir, Voronesh, Ivanovo, Kaluga, Kostroma, Kursk, Lipetzk, Moscow region, Orel, Ryazan, Smolensk, Tambov, Tver, Tula, Yaroslavl
Federal Area „South“	
4	Volgograd region
6	Republics of Agydeya, Dagestan, Ingushetien, Kabardino-Balkarien, Kalmykien, Karachaevo-Cherkesk, Nord-Ossetien-Alania, Chetchenien, Krasnodarsky district, Stavropolsky district, Regions: Astrachan, Rostov/Don
Federal Area „Wolga-Region“	
3	Nishnegorod region
4	Republics of Mari-El, Mordovia, Tatarstan, Udmurtien, Chuwashia, Regions: Kirov, Pensa, Samara, Sarotov, Ulyanovsk
9	Regions: Orenburg, Perm, Republic of Bashkortostan
Federal Area „Ural-Region“	
9	Regions Kurgan, Sverdlovsk, Tyumen, Chelyabinsk, Autonomic territory of Chanten and Mansen, Yamalo-Nenezky territory
Federal Area „Sibiria“	
9	Republic of Altai, regions: Kemerovo, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Tomsk
0	Republics of Buryatia, Tyva, Chakasia, Altaisky district, Krasnoyarsky district, Zabaikalsky district, Irkutsk region
Federal Area „Far East“	
0	Republic of Sacha-Yakutia, Primorsky district, Chabarovsky district, Kamchatsky district, regions: Amur, Magadan, Sachalin, Jewish autonomicterritory, autonomic territory Chukotka