

To whom it concerns:

Requirements for Amateur and Commercial land-mobile radio operation

Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) has received, and is investigating interference complaints from the amateur radio community in BC. This relates to non-amateurs using Amateur VHF frequencies, causing interference.

During the course of our investigation, we identified certain individuals and groups who may be operating radios without being a holder of a Certificate of Proficiency in Amateur Radio, or operating commercial radios without a valid radio license. These actions include, but are not limited to reports of:

- Operating amateur radios that have no certification under RSS-119 in the Land Mobile Service (commercial band);
- Programming and operating radios in the Land Mobile Service (commercial bands) without valid authorization (license)
- Possession and operating Amateur Radio equipment in Amateur bands without being holder of Certificate of Proficiency in Amateur Radio

Uncertified radios, such as the TYT-8900 and Baofeng UV-5R, are not approved for use in the Land Mobile Service. Their use is limited to use on amateur frequencies by a holder of a Certificate of Proficiency in Amateur Radio. These radios must be programmed and used in a way to not cause interference to radio users on other bands.

By way of this information letter, it is our intention to advise and inform the radio user communities of these issues. Therefore, as an administrator of the BC Ham Radio Facebook group, you are requested to inform members of your group of the following requirements and prohibitions under the Radiocommunication Act and Regulations:

- Operation on (commercial) land mobile frequencies must be in accordance with, and under the authority of a valid radio authorization (license) issued by ISED
- Radio apparatus used on (commercial) land mobile frequencies must be certified in accordance with RSS-119.
- Distribution, lease, or sale of uncertified radio apparatus, capable of operating on amateur or land mobile frequencies, to unauthorized users is prohibited
- Any person who possesses and/or operates amateur radio apparatus must be a holder of a Certificate of Proficiency in Radio; or be operating within physical control of another qualified amateur who is certified.
- Use of land mobile (commercial) frequencies on amateur band radios is prohibited
- Use of amateur band radios in support of industrial, business or professional activities is prohibited

- Even in an emergency, Amateur Radio Operators are only authorized to communicate with other stations in the Amateur Service.

ISED may pursue enforcement action for individuals who remain not-compliant with the above requirements. This action may include BC Federal Contraventions Tickets or Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPS).

In the interest of reducing interference and stopping the use of unauthorized radios, please pass this information along to other radio users in your group.

For any questions regarding the requirements for operation of radio equipment, please contact the ISED Lower Mainland office at 604-930-8691 or by email at ic.spectrumsurrey-surreyspectre.ic@canada.ca . Thank you.