

***Informational message about possible changes in the Regulations of Amateurs Radio Communications in Ukraine in 2020.***

Amateur radio is a technical hobby for more than a million people around the world, excluding most totalitarian countries, such as North Korea.

Each country has its own radio communication administration, which takes care of radio frequencies and technologies. In Ukraine, such an administration integrates DSSZZI (The State Service for the Special Communication and Information Protection), which is responsible for the frequency spectrum, as well as NKRZI (The National Committee Providing Regulations in the Areas of Communications and Informatization). The NKRZI, according to the law "About the Radio Frequency Spectrum of Ukraine", develops the Regulations of Radio Amateur Communications of Ukraine: it is a main document, which defines amateur radio on Ukraine, and regulates the relationships of a radio amateur and the state.

In addition, the State Enterprise "The Ukrainian Center of Radio Frequencies" (UCRF), which is a branch of NKRZI, provides licenses for radio amateurs. According to the UCRF, there are about 10 thousand active radio amateurs in our country.

The Union of Non-Governmental Organizations "The Ukrainian Amateur Radio League" (UNGO UARL) unites radio clubs from most parts of Ukraine, as well having about 1500 individual members. UNGO UARL has an "all-Ukrainian" legal status. According to the law, UNGO UARL has a right to participate in the development of Regulations of Radio Amateur Communications of Ukraine, together with other organizations.

There is no doubt that the current edition of the Regulations is strongly outdated. Firstly, it is based on standards and norms of the old USSR, where a citizen at the first place was deeply distrusted by the state. Secondly, many important changes of the modern world are not taken into an account: digitalization, electronic documents, newly developed technologies, etc. The last more or less deep changes of the Regulations were made in 2010, about 10 years ago.

UNGO UARL, other unions, as well as individual radio amateurs repeatedly appealed to the NKRZI during last few years, pointing out that the Regulations were outdated and proposing their help to renew them. They asked to add new radio amateur bands, increase power levels, enable the use novel technologies, as well as to improve methods and ways how an amateur interacts to the state to pass an exam, to get or to renew a license. It is clear that highly developed countries, such as EU members, are about 10-20 years ahead of Ukraine in relation to radio amateur law.

In response, NKRZI always asked radio amateurs to wait until "planned changes to the Regulations happen". Lately, NKRZI announced such changes during 1-4 quarters of 2020 under the title "Improvements of certain provisions of the Regulations of amateur radio communications of Ukraine, aiming European level of radio amateurship in Ukraine". Back in 2019, a workgroup was created for implementing such changes, which included representatives of NKRZI and radio amateur organizations. The group had several meetings in 2019, moving to a video conference format in 2020.

The following persons represented the group:

- 1) NKRZI: O. Kuznetsov, I. Protasenko, I. Chernyavska, G. Symonenko;
- 2) UCRF: Y. Sapalyov; I. Magrelo;
- 3) UNGO UARL: O. Ananyev, D. Nechitailov;
- 4) NGO CEDAR: Y. Zhmur;
- 5) GO LRU: Y. Zaskaleta, O. Kyrylenko.

During the activity of this work group, NRZI asked radio amateurs about their ideas on certain parts of the Regulations. In response, radio amateurs demanded changes, which corresponded to the European direction of the development of radio amateur hobby in Ukraine. For this, UNGO UARL invited leading radio amateurs, radio sportsmen, experts in the area of radio communications, lawyers, etc. We also consulted local radio clubs all over Ukraine, as well as foreign radio amateur organizations.

Despite this, NKRZI mostly did not take into account proposals of radio amateurs. A project of changes was prepared and published in autumn of 2020, ignoring most of the proposals. In fact, only small, minor changes and corrections were made, which have nothing to do with the real task: to reach the European level of amateur radio in Ukraine. On the contrary, several steps back were made, for gaining bureaucracy and preventing easy access to amateur radio in our country. In addition, Regulations are still having signs of discrimination of certain persons and groups; contrary to the law, a public anti-discrimination expertise was not held by NKRZI.

Today, Ukrainian amateur radio needs your help to prevent NRKZI from accepting small, cosmetic modifications in the Amateur Radio Regulations in Ukraine instead of providing important, modern changes. We believe this is fully possible.

73! UNGO UARL