

VKS-737 Radio Network

A division of the Australian National 4WD Radio Network Inc.



Established 1993

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Conditions for use of the VKS-737 Radio Network

The VKS-737 Radio Network holds Land Mobile licences issued by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) permitting the operation of Base Stations on 5455, 8022, 11612, 14977, 3995, 6796 & 10180 kHz. These licences are issued in accordance with the Radiocommunications Act No.174 of 1992.

VKS-737 subscribers are issued with a **Licence Authority** to allow **mobile** operation on the above listed frequencies under Section 114 of the Radio Communications Act only for the period of time as indicated upon their annual Licence Authority Card, the Licence Authority is NOT transferable.

The onus of Licence Authority renewal rests with the subscriber, not with the VKS-737 Radio Network.

Non-receipt of a Renewal Notice for whatsoever reason does not give those individuals the right to use VKS-737 frequencies after the expiry date shown on their Licence Authority Card.

Subscribers are required to notify VKS-737 Head Office of any change of postal address. Failure to comply will result in suspension of the subscriber's Licence Authority to use VKS-737 frequencies until a valid postal address is provided. The VKS-737 Radio Network will not be held responsible for loss of access to VKS-737 facilities during the period of suspension, nor be liable for any costs or losses incurred during the suspension or costs involved reinstating the Licence Authority.

Subscribers should be aware that possession of a radio enabled to transmit on frequencies for which they do not hold a current valid Licence or Licence Authority is an offence under the Radiocommunications Act 1992.

At all times VKS-737 subscribers are required to use the correct Callsign when operating on VKS-737 Network frequencies:

- Full Callsigns i.e. *VKS-737 Mobile 5291* must be given at the beginning and end of all transmissions, including Selcalls and Beacon calls, and at periods of no greater than 10 minutes during transmissions.
- Providing that the full callsigns are given at the beginning and end of a session, it is allowable to use the abbreviated Callsign i.e. *Mobile 5291* during transmissions.

Subscribers MUST leave a 3 second pause between every "over" to allow other VKS-737 subscribers and / or Base Stations to join into the conversation or base station scheduled sessions.

Communications are permitted, at any time, between VKS-737 Network subscribers operating **mobile**, anywhere in Australia, and VKS-737 Base Stations.

Communications are permitted on a **non-interference** basis, at any time, between VKS-737 subscribers operating **mobile** anywhere in Australia.

At all times, communications to and from VKS-737 Base Stations, shall take precedence (except in the case of genuine emergencies) over ALL mobile traffic.

VKS-737 subscribers should be mindful that we do not have exclusive use of our allocated frequencies and must therefore not engage in activities that would prevent those users rightful access to the frequencies.

Except in the case of genuine emergencies (as defined in the Radiocommunications Act), subscribers are NOT permitted to make contact with non VKS-737 subscribers (i.e. VMS-469 Radiodata Pty Ltd - Bush Telegraph) who are sharing some of our frequencies.

Subscribers must keep the relevant frequencies clear from the commencement, until after the completion of the regular daily traffic schedules through the VKS-737 Bases.

In the case of Emergency Traffic, all mobile stations shall cease transmission on the relevant frequency, and stand-by to render any assistance that may be necessary, until the Emergency Traffic is cleared.

Subscribers using a Selcall Beacon Call to check transmission path conditions to either an authorised base station, or another mobile station, shall first announce their callsign and do so in a manner such as not to cause interference and inconvenience to other users.

No subscriber shall operate any fixed Base Station equipment (i.e. fixed transmitters, antennas etc.) on VKS-737 frequencies, nor shall they connect mobile transmitting equipment to a fixed (Base Station) antenna system.

All equipment used for communication on the VKS-737 Radio Network shall comply with ACMA Radiocommunications (MF and HF equipment – Land Mobile Services) Standard 2003 (as amended) made under subsection 162 (1) of the Radiocommunications Act No. 174 of 1992 and Australian / New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4770:2000 (The use of Amateur Radio Equipment is strictly prohibited).

Subscribers are reminded that VKS-737 Radio Network frequencies are licensed for VOICE traffic ONLY; Selcall and Beacon Calls are annoying and disruptive to other users, have no priority over voice traffic, and should only be used sparingly to prevent disruption of existing voice traffic.

Under ACMA regulations the use of the VKS-737 Radio Network frequencies for Automatic Link Establishment (ALE or CALM), Automatic GPS Position Reporting, Data Transmission, Digital Page Calls & SMS calls is **NOT** permitted.

In addition to the above conditions, subscribers are reminded that all transmissions must be in accordance with all regulations as laid down in the Radio Communications Act No. 174 of 1992, as well as any additional conditions / interpretations as determined by the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

It is an offence, and subject to a civil penalty, to operate a radiocommunications device otherwise than as authorised by a spectrum licence, apparatus licence or a class licence (section 46 of the Act). The Act prescribes the following maximum penalties for the offence:

- if the radiocommunications device is a radiocommunications transmitter, and the offender is an individual – imprisonment for 2 years;
- if the radiocommunications device is a radiocommunications transmitter, and the offender is not an individual – 1,500 penalty units (which is \$333,000 based on the current* penalty unit amount of \$222);
- if the radiocommunications device is not a radiocommunications transmitter – 20 penalty units (\$4,400).

The Act prescribes the following maximum civil penalties:

- if the radiocommunications device is a radiocommunications transmitter – 300 penalty units (\$66,600);
- if the radiocommunications device is not a radiocommunications transmitter – 20 penalty units (\$4,400).

It is an offence, and subject to a civil penalty, to possess a radiocommunications device for the purpose of operating the device otherwise than as authorised by a spectrum licence, apparatus licence or class licence (section 47 of the Act). The Act prescribes the same penalties for this offence and civil penalty contravention as for the offence and civil penalty contravention in section 46.

*Current as at May 2022

Any subscriber found to be in contravention of the above Conditions will have their Authority to use the VKS-737 frequencies under Section 114 of the Radio Communications Act No. 174 of 1992 immediately CANCELLED and may be reported to the Australian Communications & Media Authority for possible prosecution under the Radiocommunications Act.

Conditions for use of the VKS-737 Satellite Telephone Service.

The VKS-737 Radio Network provides limited facilities for subscribers wishing to contact base station operators using satellite telephones, mobile telephones and landline telephones.

Connection to this service is via an **unlisted telephone number** issued to subscribers.

This number is CONFIDENTIAL and under no circumstances is to be made available to unauthorised persons.

Existing VKS-737 HF radio subscribers can contact base station operators by telephone for no additional subscription charge. Calls to operators are treated in the same manner as radio originated calls via the VKS-737 Base Stations and subscribers should identify themselves using their existing VKS-737 Selcall Number / Callsign.

Subscribers to the VKS-737 Radio Network Satellite Telephone Service who do NOT hold VKS-737 Radio Network HF Licence Authorities are NOT permitted to make contact with the Network using frequencies licensed to the VKS-737 Radio Network.

The VKS-737 Satellite Telephone Service can be used for:

- Emergency assistance calls.
- General safety logging calls.
- Information request calls i.e. road and weather reports.

Subscribers to this service should be aware that:

- All calls made to the VKS-737 Radio Network are charged by their service provider at their normal call rates.
- VKS-737 operators will not make return calls to satellite telephone numbers, it is the responsibility of subscribers to call back to an operator to obtain any information that they had previously requested.

In cases of emergencies operators may either:

- Provide the subscriber with the direct contact telephone number of the emergency organisation the wish to contact.
- Transfer the incoming telephone call to the relevant emergency service organisation for them to directly assist the subscriber.
- Contact the relevant emergency organisation to obtain assistance on behalf of the subscriber, if necessary this may require the subscriber to call back to the operator to obtain the requested information.

The onus of Licence Authority renewal rests with the subscriber, not with the VKS-737 Radio Network.

Non-receipt of a Renewal Notice for whatsoever reason does not give those individuals the right to use the VKS-737 Satellite Service after the expiry date shown on their Licence Authority Card.

Subscribers are required to notify VKS-737 Head Office of any change of postal address. Failure to comply will result in suspension of the subscriber's Licence Authority to use VKS-737 frequencies until a valid postal address is provided.

The VKS-737 Radio Network will not be held responsible for loss of access to VKS-737 facilities during the period of suspension, nor be liable for any costs or losses incurred during the suspension or costs involved reinstating the Licence Authority.

Any subscriber found to be in contravention of the above Conditions will have their Authority to use the VKS-737 Satellite Telephone Service immediately CANCELLED.