BELIZE

BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION ACT
CHAPTER 227

REVISED EDITION 2003
SHOWING THE SUBSIDIARY LAWS AS AT 31ST OCTOBER, 2003

This is a revised edition of the Subsidiary Laws, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Law Revision Act, Chapter 3 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000.

ARRANGEMENT OF SUBSIDIARY LAWS
This is a revised edition of the Subsidiary Laws, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Law Revision Act, Chapter 3 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000.

This edition contains a consolidation of the following laws:

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CHAPTER 227

BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

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CHAPTER 227

BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION REGULATIONS

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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2. High quality service.
3. Information, education, etc.
4. Requirements of programmes.
5. Compliance with requirements.
6. Annual fees.
7. Payment of fees.
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10. Consent for certain broadcasts.
11. Educational etc. programmes.
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13. National defence etc.
CHAPTER 227

BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION REGULATIONS

(Section 9)

[30th June, 1984]

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Broadcasting and Television Regulations.

2. The licensee shall provide radio and/or television broadcasting Services of high quality both as to transmission and as to matter transmitted.

3. The licensee shall provide radio and/or television broadcasting services for disseminating information, education and entertainment.

4. Programmes broadcast by the licensee shall comply with the following requirements:

   (a) nothing shall be included in the programmes which offends against good taste or decency or is likely to encourage or incite to crime or to lead to disorder or to be offensive to public feelings;

   (b) due impartiality shall be preserved on the part of the persons providing the programmes as respects matter of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy;

   (c) programmes broadcast from any station shall contain a suitable proportion of matter calculated to appeal specially to the tastes and outlook of persons served by that station;
(d) such other requirements as may be conveyed by the Authority to the licensee from time to time.

5. The licensee shall comply with such requirements as to advertisements as may be conveyed to him by the Authority from time to time.

6. (1) Subject to sub-regulation (2) of this regulation, the annual fees specified in Columns II, III and IV of the Schedule annexed hereto shall be payable for a licence in respect of the type of television channel or radio station specified in Column I of the said schedule, or, in the case of a national broadcasting licence, the fee specified opposite that entry in the said schedule.

   (2) Where in the case of a television channel by cable network, the annual licence fee specified in the Schedule falls short of 5% of the gross income of the licensee (in respect of cable network operations) for the period of licence, the licensee shall pay as additional licence fee an amount equal to the difference between the annual licence fee specified in the Schedule and 5% of such gross income.

   (3) No licence fee shall be payable in respect of a television channel or a radio station owned and operated by the Government.

   (4) Where any dispute arises as to the type or category in which a television channel or a radio station falls, the decision of the Minister thereon shall be final.

   (5) For the purposes of these Regulations-

   “cable television” means the transmission of electrical signals over wires to the television sets;

   “public television channel” or a “public radio station” means respectively a television channel or a radio station owned and operated by a Local authority or a statutory body declared by the Minister to be a public authority for the
purposes of these Regulations;

“the Authority” means the Belize Telecommunications Limited.

7. The licensee shall pay into the Consolidated Revenue Fund the prescribed fee prior to the commencement of broadcasting any radio or television programme. In the case of a person who is operating a television station on the date the Act came into force application for a licence shall be made within ten days of the gazetting of these Regulations.

8. The licensee shall comply with any terms and conditions subject to which the licence is granted. The conditions may prescribe inter alia the hours of broadcast, and frequency of advertisements.

9. The licensee shall not assign the licence granted to him without the previous consent of the Authority.

10. The licensee shall not broadcast or televise any party political speech or activity and shall not give any publicity thereto without the previous consent in writing of the Authority and where such consent is granted the Authority may prescribe the terms and conditions for such broadcast with a view to ensuring the preservation of due impartiality and the right of reply and comment, allowing for equal time.

11. The licensee shall set aside time and shall broadcast such programmes of an educational, cultural or artistic nature or of national interest and importance as the Authority may from time to time decide.

12. The licensee shall maintain a standard of high quality and excellence in form, presentation and content in programmes, and shall not broadcast programmes which may be in violation of the Law dealing with obscene publication, the Law relating to defamation of character, the right to privacy as guaranteed by the Constitution, respect for the rule of law and the observance of the principles of due process of law, and in particular the principle that all
persons accused of crime are presumed to be innocent until proven to be guilty.

National defence, etc.

13. The licensee shall not broadcast any matter that may be detrimental or injurious to national defence and security, public safety, public order, public morality or public health or matter that may be considered discriminatory on grounds of sex, race, place of origin, political opinion, colour or creed.

Permits.

14. The licensee shall obtain all permits and licences as may be required for the use of satellite broadcast from the appropriate agencies or entity and shall keep the Authority and the Government of Belize indemnified against any costs and fees or any action for damages resulting from the use of such programmes whether for breach of copyright or otherwise.
## SCHEDULE

**ANNUAL FEES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type or category of television channel or radio station</th>
<th>Belize City</th>
<th>Belmopan and District Towns</th>
<th>Villages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Column 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Column 2 $</strong></td>
<td><strong>Column 3 $</strong></td>
<td><strong>Column 4 $</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Part I - Television Channels

A. **Private Commercial Television**
   (i) Channel by radiated signals (except scrambled signals)... 4,000
   (ii) by cable network ................ 8,000

B. **Public Television Channel by**
   (i) radiated signals (except scrambled signals)............. 2,000
   (ii) by cable network................... 4,000

C. **Other Television Channels**
   (i) by radiated signals................. 2,000
   (ii) by cable network................... 4,000

### Part II - Radio Stations

A. **Private Commercial Radio Station** 2,000

B. **Public Radio Station ..................**

C. **Other Radio Stations (including religious and charitable stations)** 1,000

### Part III National Broadcasting Licence

National Television Broadcasting Licence- $10,000 per annum irrespective of the location

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CHAPTER 227

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY (LICENCES AND FEES) REGULATIONS

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

1. Title.
2. Application for licence.
3. Forms and period of licence.
5. Fees.
6. Power to exempt.
7. Power to cancel licence.
8. Renewal of licence.
CHAPTER 227

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY (LICENCES AND FEES) REGULATIONS 39/1965.

(Section 5)

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Wireless Telegraphy (Licences and Fees) Regulations.

2. Every person desiring to obtain a licence to install or work any apparatus for wireless telegraphy shall apply in writing to the Minister and shall give the following particulars:

   (a) his full name, nationality and address;

   (b) the address at which the apparatus is to be installed;

   (c) the name of the apparatus, the description of the set, the maker’s name and the number of valves in use.

3. (1) A licence to install or work any apparatus for wireless telegraphy shall be in the appropriate form as set out in the Schedule to these Regulations and shall be subject to the conditions specified therein.

    (2) Every such licence shall remain in force until the end of the year in which it is issued.

4. There shall be three classes of licences.

   (a) radio receiving set licences;

   (b) amateur wireless transmitting and receiving set licences;
(c) licences for wireless transmitting and receiving sets used for business purposes.

5. The fee payable for each class of licence shall be as follows:

(a) Amateur Wireless Transmitting and Receiving Set .. $2.50

(b) Wireless Transmitting and Receiving Set used for business purposes .. $50.00

Provided that if any licence is granted after the 30th day of June in any year there shall be payable in respect thereof one-half of the annual fee.

6. The Minister may exempt from the provisions of these Regulations any apparatus for wireless telegraphy which is the property of the Government, or of any school, church, community centre or other institution of a charitable, cultural or educational nature.

7. Any licence granted under the provisions of these Regulations may be cancelled at any time by the Minister without compensation.

8. Subject to the provisions of the last preceding regulation all licences granted under these Regulations shall be renewable annually on payment of the appropriate licence fee into the Post Office, without further reference to the Minister, and the receipt of the Postmaster General shall be deemed to be sufficient proof of renewal.
SCHEDULE

FORM A

*License to install a Radio Receiving Set.*

Mr. ...............................................of .......................................................... is hereby authorised to install a Radio Receiving Set at ........................................ subject to the conditions specified herein.

This licence is subject to the provisions of the Broadcasting and Television Act, and any Regulations made thereunder.

*Dated this* day of , 20 .

*Minister.*

*Conditions*

1. The licensed apparatus shall be used exclusively for receiving broadcast radio-telephone programmes.

2. The aerial must not be erected across any power lines and must be guarded against any possibility of falling upon or being blown on to any power line.

3. This licence does not authorise the licensee to do any act which is an infringement of any copyright which may exist in the matter transmitted.

4. The licensee shall not divulge or allow to be divulged to any person (other than a duly authorised officer of Government or to a competent legal tribunal) or make any use whatsoever of any message received by means of the installation, other than broadcast programmes intended for general reception.
5. In the event of transfer of the radio set the licensee shall notify the Postmaster General.

FORM B

BELIZE

Licence to Install Amateur Wireless Transmitting and Receiving Set.

Mr. ..........................................................of ........................................................ is hereby authorised to install and work a Wireless Transmitting and Receiving Station at ........................................................ subject to the conditions herein contained.

This licence is subject to the provisions of the Broadcasting and Television Act, and any Regulations made thereunder.

Dated this day of , 20 .

Minister.

Conditions

1. This licence is subject to withdrawal or modification at any time either by specific notice in writing sent to the licensee by post at the above address, or by means of a general notice published in the Gazette addressed to all holders of licences for amateur wireless transmitting and receiving stations.
2. Failure to send the call signal or to tune accurately to authorised frequencies, the use of unauthorised power or frequencies, or any other breach of the conditions herein will render this licence liable to be cancelled, and in such event no part of any fee paid in respect thereof will be refunded.

3. (1) The call sign allotted shall be as follows:

   (2) The power, frequencies and type of emission shall be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Power</th>
<th>Frequencies</th>
<th>Type of emission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

4. The licensee shall observe the provisions of the International Telecommunications Convention, 1947, and the Radiocommunication Regulations annexed thereto and any subsequent international convention and regulations which may replace the same so far as they are applicable to amateur stations.

5. Messages shall be sent only on frequencies within the band and by the types of emission specified herein and the total direct current power input to the place circuit of the output valve shall not exceed 500 watts.

6. (1) The use of spark transmitting apparatus is forbidden.

   (2) Unrectified alternating current shall not be employed for the high tension supply.

   (3) The high tension supply shall be so smoothed that the valve of the residual ripple voltage does not exceed 5% of the direct current voltage.

7. (1) When in use the transmitting apparatus shall be tuned to a frequency within the authorised band.

   (2) A satisfactory method of frequency stabilisation shall be employed in the transmitting apparatus.
8. Where the transmitting apparatus is not crystal controlled there shall be kept at the station a reliable frequency meter of an approved type.

9. The apparatus must in all cases be operated by or under the direct supervision of the holder of this licence.

10. Sending must not commence without listening-in on the frequency which is to be used in order to ascertain whether interference is likely to be caused thereby with any other station which may be working.

11. (1) A record shall be kept in a book (not loose-leaf) of all sending periods showing the date and time of each period and the frequency and type of emission employed.

(2) No gaps shall be left between entries in the record.

(3) The record of sending periods shall in all cases be initialled at the time of recording by the authorised operator.

12. (1) Messages may be exchanged only with amateur stations in this country or abroad.

(2) Messages exchanged by means of the station shall relate solely to the licensee's private (but not business) affairs or those of the person with whom he is communicating and shall be in plain language.

13. The use of the station for advertising or business purposes, for the sending or reception of news or messages of persons other than the licensee or the person with whom he is communicating, or for the sending or reception of broadcast programmes or of social or political propaganda is expressly prohibited.

14. The licensee shall not receive any payment either direct or indirect for the use of the station or allow the station to be controlled by or used for the
purposes of any social or political organisation.

15. Secrecy of correspondence shall be observed. If any message which the licensee is not entitled to receive is nevertheless received, the licensee shall not make known or allow to be made known its contents, its origin or destination, its existence or the fact of its receipt to any person other than a duly authorised officer of the Belize Government, or a competent legal tribunal.

16. The station shall be subject to the approval of the Minister and shall, including the record of transmissions, be open to inspection at all reasonable times by officers of the Public Utilities Commission.

17. (1) The Minister, in case of emergency in which it is expedient for the public service that the Belize Government shall have control over the sending of messages, shall have power to control the sending and receiving of messages at the station and may authorise in writing any person to enter the premises at which the station is maintained for any such purposes.

(2) The licensee shall not be entitled to any compensation in respect of the exercise by the Minister of the powers conferred by paragraph (1) of this condition.

18. The licence does not authorise the licensee to do any act which is an infringement of any copyright which may exist in the matter transmitted.

19. Any change of address should be notified immediately to the Minister.
FORM C

BELIZE

Licence to operate Wireless Telephony for Business Purposes.
Mr. ................................................... of .........................................................
is hereby authorised to install and work a station for communication by wireless telephony at ........................................................., subject to the conditions herein contained.

The licence is subject to the provisions of the Broadcasting and Television Act and any Regulations made thereunder.

Dated this ................................................... day of .................................., 20 ................................................... Minister.

Conditions

1. The licence is subject to withdrawal or modification at any time, either by specific notice in writing sent to the licensee by post at the above address or by means of a general notice in the Gazette.

2. Failure to give the call sign or to tune accurately to authorised frequencies, the use of unauthorised power or frequencies, or any breach of the conditions herein contained will render the licence liable to be cancelled.

3. In the event of cancellation of the licence no part of the fee paid in respect thereof shall be refunded.

4. The combined height and length of the aerial shall not exceed 150'.

5. The aerial shall be carefully erected and must be guarded against any possibility of falling upon or being blown on to any power line.
6. The power used with the sending apparatus shall not exceed three hundred watts measured at the input to the main oscillator and messages shall be sent only on wave-lengths within the frequencies and by the systems mentioned below-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequencies in kilocycles per second</th>
<th>Approximate equivalent wave-lengths in metres</th>
<th>System</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

7. The use of spark sending apparatus and of unrectified alternating current is strictly forbidden.

8. (1) The station shall always be equipped for reception as well as sending.

(2) The sending apparatus shall invariably be tuned as accurately as possible to the particular authorised frequency on which it is proposed to send, and for this purpose there shall be kept at the station for use whenever necessary a reliable instrument for measuring the frequency of the emission from the station.

(3) The licensee shall take all practical steps to maintain the accuracy of such instrument and shall observe any detailed instructions which may be issued, in that regard, by the Minister.

9. Emissions for the station shall always be kept as stable as possible, that is, as free from variation, other than necessary modulation, from the frequency intended to be used, and shall also be as free as possible from harmonics and other unessential emissions.

10. Sending shall not commence without listening in on the frequency which is intended to be used in order to ascertain whether interference is likely to be caused thereby with any other station.
11. No period of working shall exceed ten consecutive minutes’ duration and each period of sending shall be followed by a period of not less than three minutes listening in on the frequency used.

12. The apparatus must at all times be operated by a person approved by the Minister.

13. Sending shall, at once, be discontinued or postponed at the request of any Government station.

14. (1) A record shall be kept at the station of all transmissions showing the date and time of each transmission and the frequency and system.

(2) The apparatus and all records shall be open to inspection at all reasonable times by any officer authorised in writing by the Minister.

15. (1) The apparatus shall be used only for the exchange of messages relating solely to the licensee’s own affairs.

(2) All communications shall be in the English or Spanish language.

(3) The use of the apparatus for the sending of news or advertisements, or messages for or on behalf of a third party is strictly forbidden except in the case of any public emergency, or in case of sickness or accident or where medical aid is required.

(4) If any message is unintentionally received by means of the apparatus the licensee shall not make known its contents, its origin or destination or the fact of its receipt to any person (other than a duly authorised officer of the Government or a competent legal tribunal) and shall not copy or make use of any such message or allow the same to be copied or made use of.

17. (1) The station shall be used in such a manner as to cause no interference with other stations.

(2) In particular, reaction must not be used for reception to such an extent as to energize any neighbouring aerial.

(3) The station shall be subject to the approval of the Minister.

18. The call signal that has been allocated to this apparatus.

19. Every member of the staff employed at the station shall be a citizen of Belize save where in special circumstances, the Minister otherwise directs in writing.

20. (1) The Minister, in case of emergency in which it is expedient for the public service that the Belize government shall have control over the sending of messages, shall have power to control the sending and receiving of messages at the station and may authorise in writing any person to enter the premises at which the station is maintained for any such purpose.

(2) The licensee shall not be entitled to any compensation in respect of the exercise by the Minister of the powers conferred by paragraph (1) of this condition.

21. The licence does not authorise the licensee to do any act which is an infringement of any copyright which may exist in the matter transmitted.
CHAPTER 227

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY (SHIPS OF BELIZE REGISTRY) REGULATIONS

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

1. Title.
2. Issue of licences.
3. Conditions of licence.
4. Period of licence.
5. Fee for licence.
CHAPTER 227

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY (SHIPS OF BELIZE REGISTRY) REGULATIONS

(Section 5)

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Wireless Telegraphy (Ships of Belize Registry) Regulations.

2. Licences to install and work radio equipment on board ships registered in Belize shall be issued, on payment of the appropriate fee therefor, at the Belize Telecommunications Limited.

3. Such licences shall be subject to the conditions contained in the Schedule to these Regulations and such conditions shall be printed on the licence.

4. Every licence issued under the provisions of these Regulations shall expire on the 31st day of December in the year in which it is granted.

5. The fee for such licence shall be twenty-five dollars per annum:

   Provided that licences issued on or after the 1st day of July in any year shall be charged with only half that rate.
SCHEDULE

THE WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY (SHIPS OF BELIZE REGISTRY) REGULATIONS

Radio Equipment Licence.

Licence is hereby granted under the Wireless Telegraphy (Ships of Belize Registry) Regulations to

............................................................................... to install and work on board the ........................................................................................................ The licence expires on the 31st day of December, 20

This licence is subject to the conditions endorsed hereon.

The payment of the fee of $ ......................... is hereby acknowledged.

Dated the day of 20

Belize Telecommunications Limited.

Conditions

(to be printed on the back of the Licence).

1. Operators - No person shall operate a radio telephone installation before he has obtained a “Restricted Telephone Operator’s Licence” from the Belize Telecommunications Limited. The said licence will be given on passing a test the main items of which are ability to speak and understand English over a normal telephone circuit and a knowledge of the international and local regulations covering the use of radio telephone operation.

2. Third Parties - The use of the telephone by third parties is prohibited unless such third parties possess a suitable licence or in the case of distress.

3. Frequencies - The following frequencies are to be used:

Belize to Yachts Belize 2582 Kcs Ship 2166 Kcs
Ship to Ship Alternative frequency
4. Station.-The station to be worked shall be the nearest coast station in the country to which the conversation is directed.

The use of the wireless apparatus of ships is prohibited in Belize and other ports at which there is a radio telephone service and use should be made of the facilities provided ashore.

Ships desiring conversation with persons in Belize must route their traffic through Belize marine VPP2. Traffic for Punta Gorda should go to Punta Gorda.

5. Method of calling.-Operators must listen to hear if the circuit is disengaged before calling.

The ship will call the station required either by name or by using the call sign. The stations are named respectively-

Belize Marine VPP2

This will be followed by either the call sign of the calling ship or by its registered name: (Belize Marine (repeated three or more times) this is “Betty K” calling, or, VPP2 VPP2 this is VQNA calling. The call should be repeated until a reply is received from the coast station).
CHAPTER 227

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY (USE ON SHIPS)
REGULATIONS

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

1. Title.
2. Use of apparatus on ship in harbour.
4. Service.
5. Application of Regulations.
CHAPTER 227

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY (USE ON SHIPS)
REGULATIONS
(Section 5)

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Wireless Telegraphy (Use on Ships) Regulations.

2. The use of wireless telegraph or telephony apparatus on ships is permitted in all harbours of Belize, subject to the following conditions:

(a) that the use of the apparatus is restricted to urgent communications between the captains of ships and owners, agents or dock officials concerning the berthing or departure of a vessel and the handling of her cargo;

(b) that such communication shall be exchanged only with the nearest Government station, the charges to be at the usual rates;

(c) that no interference with other traffic is caused, and that in particular the minimum power necessary for establishing communication is used;

(d) that the communication is at once discontinued on receipt of a request to that effect from a government or commercial station;

(e) that the permission may be withdrawn at any time at the discretion of the Minister.
3. For the purpose of any proceedings under these Regulations the master or person being or appearing to be in command or charge of any ship shall be deemed to have authorised and to be responsible for the use or working of any apparatus on board such ship.

4. Any summons or other document in any proceedings under these Regulations shall be deemed to have been duly served on the person to whom the same is addressed by being left on board the ship on which the offence is charged to have been committed with the person being or appearing to be in command or charge of the ship.

5. These Regulations shall not apply to the use of wireless telegraphy or telephony for the purpose of making or answering signals of distress.