



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1  
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<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>The Future of QSLs</b>		
<b>Society</b>	<b>OeVSV</b>	<b>Country:</b>	<b>Austria</b>
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>C3</b>	<b>Paper number:</b>	<b>CT08_C3_45</b>
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The QSL card, henceforth referred to as QSL, is the "business card" of the radio operator, and serves to verify a successful radio contact or the reception of a radio transmission (SWL). Most amateur radio diplomas require the possession, or even the presentation (e.g. the DXCC) of such QSLs. Production and shipment of QSLs are increasingly labour intensive and expensive. This puts a heavy burden on the resources of national societies, particularly the medium-sized and the small ones. Volunteers for the handling of QSLs are hard to find these days.

Currently, QSLs can be exchanged

- through national amateur radio bureaus -

In this case, costs are shared through membership fees, or through special "QSL stamps".

- through "QSL managers" –

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In this case, the QSL must be sent to a manager, which entails postal fees. On top of that, a SASE, IRCs or cash (typically 2 USD) is needed.

- or by direct mail ("direct QSL")

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In this case, procedures and costs are equivalent to the use of QSL managers.

On top of that, some societies/organisations, have, for some time, used electronic means to submit logs and thus provide a verification function for diplomas (e.g. LOTW). In such cases, no traditional QSLs are exchanged.

In the future, the tradition of QSLing may well be carried on, but the lack of volunteers for handling, and the cost factor must be considered.

Therefore, ÖVSV suggests to recognise the already existing eQSL as an official verification for national diplomas of IARU member societies. The minimum requirement would be an open list of established radio contacts that cannot be manipulated. Interested operators could download forms and enter their own log data. In this way, individualised QSLs could be generated for special occasions without much additional cost. The required data (QSL forms, list of callsigns and/or log entries) could be available for upload and download on a specialised website on the server of the national society or of the region.