International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia Founded 1950

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SUBJECT	COMPULSORY REG 1 TEST LOGS ENTRIES		
Society	EDR	Country:	Denmark
Committee:	C5	Paper number:	03
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Introduction

The purpose of this document is to address the IARU Region 1 VHF Committee and the issue of "Only EDI logs acceptable for IARU R1 contests?" I.e. all entries must comply with the existing recommendations described in the VHF Managers Handbook section IIIh. - Standard format for electronic log transfer, Introduction (May 98) and Appendix IIIh.a1 - Specification of the standard log format (May 98).

Background

It is now about ten years ago since the "Standard format for electronic log transfer" was frozen. It has ever since proved as a very reliable vehicle for submitting contest logs entries to the contest managers. In comparison many HF contests specify which contest log programs to use, thus forcing certain solutions onto the entrants, or stipulate formats like ADIF and Cabrillo. The latter is often the cause of frustration by contest managers as the entries may differ a lot since the specification is very open. The IARU Region 1 VHF Committee format - REG1TEST - is easy to understand and can transport most VHF and above contests.

Since the introduction of REG1TEST the number of computer made logs have risen due to the natural evolution of the personal computer and computers in general. Today very few stations log and calculate contests by hand.

Furthermore, has the adjudication process been automated among many contest managers alleviating the burden on the adjudicator. E.g. the EDR VHF Contest Manager received more than 2500 REG1TEST entries, and manages 49 contests, per year. Imagine that being paper logs or other electronically formatted logs of various origin.

Is now the time?

Forcing everyone to submit a REG1TEST entry might lead to a situation where some stations will either stop submitting logs or completely stop contesting. Neither is a fortunate situation. On the other hand it could be about time to enforce REG1TEST entries in this day an age.

An open question is how many hand made logs do contest managers receive today? Please ask your local VHF contest manager.

Key points and proposal

Handling REG1TEST formatted logs eases the burden on the contest managers and is not a problem to generate as there are many VHF and above contest log programs available.

Not many stations log and calculate the scores for more than 50 QSOs by hand any longer.

Now IS the time to make REG1TEST log entries compulsory at least for all those who already use computers.

Recommendations

1. *In case the entrant uses a computer based contest log program a REG1TEST entry must be submitted.*
   It is easy to see if an entry is a computer print or not.

2. *When introducing new sections in a contest it should be stipulated that a REG1TEST entry must be submitted.*
   This way nothing is becoming stricter since the new section is an extension to an already existing contest.

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