

## **OFF-ROAD COMMUNICATIONS**



The issuing and management of off-road radio transceivers in the organised South African 4x4 fraternity, is managed by the Off-road Radio Association (ORRA), an independent management body under the auspices of the Association of All Wheel Drive Clubs of South Africa (AAWDC).

Only paid up club members, whose clubs are also paid up members of the AAWDC, may apply for 29mHz and VHF Radio Licenses through ORRA. This is not a public facility.

This license of operation has been exclusively granted to ORRA / AAWDC, by ICASA.

### **PURCHASING A NEW RADIO**

First determine what your 4x4 club uses, and what your needs are - AM (29Mhz) or VHF.

Then select an ICASA accredited and ORRA Associated radio dealer – refer [www.aawdc.org.za](http://www.aawdc.org.za) (under the ORRA tab) for a detailed list of dealers who have agreed to ensure the integrity of our licensing procedures.

Visit the dealer, discuss your choice with them, take the vehicle you want the radio fitted to, (if not using a magnetic aerial) with you so that the technician can discuss aerial fitment / placement etc.

After you have made your decision, get a quotation which illustrates the make and serial number of the equipment to be purchased.

Download the ORRA application form from the website [www.aawdc.org.za](http://www.aawdc.org.za) and complete the form. Forward the form to your club's radio officer, who will sign the application and confirm your club membership. Remember to fill in the radio details you got from the dealer.

Pay the required license fee via EFT to the ORRA account and then fax/e-mail the completed form and copy of proof of payment to the ORRA office at 012 329 4296 or [orra@aawdc.org.za](mailto:orra@aawdc.org.za).

Fees are payable per radio, per frequency.

***Please allow 10 days for processing.***

When you receive your license from ORRA you can return to the radio dealer. Produce the

license, which will now entitle you to purchase and install the radio.

On the license received you will find your allocated call sign, e.g. J22. This call sign must be displayed on your vehicle. The recommended size is ± 75mm black on yellow sticker available from your local hardware store.

Also ensure that the physical license card is kept in proximity of the radio, for ICASA / ORRA inspection at all times.

You will also receive an ORRA logo decal for your vehicle.

You are now legally permitted to use your two way radio.

### **PURCHASING AN ADDITIONAL FREQUENCY**

If you already have an ORRA license on one of the frequencies and you want to purchase a radio on a different frequency, all the above points are applicable.



[www.aawdc.org.za](http://www.aawdc.org.za)

**AAWDC MEMBERS STAY LEGAL**

**IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO!!!!**

**ORRA ADMINISTRATION:**

ORRA Administrator

012-379-1715 (Office) 08:00 until 12:30

012-329-4296 (Fax)

[orra@aawdc.org.za](mailto:orra@aawdc.org.za) (email)

[www.orra.co.za](http://www.orra.co.za) (Website)

## **SELLING OR DISPOSING OF A RADIO**

### **TRANSCEIVER**

The transceiver you own is licensed in your name. If you should decide to sell or dispose off it, certain steps must be taken. They are:

- ξ Before you sell or dispose of your transceiver, the 'buyer' must first apply for a license.
- ξ If he is a member of a club affiliated to the AAWDC, the application can be done through ORRA.
- ξ If not, the buyer must apply directly to ICASA. You are still legally liable for the equipment and the license fee, until such time the new owner has procured a license.
- ξ Only after receiving a license from the ICASA, may the transceiver be disposed off.
- ξ ORRA must now be notified in writing, with a copy of the new owners license, and only then can the existing license be removed from your name and you be relieved of both the legal and license liability for the transceiver.

Based on the laws that regulate the Telecommunications industry and ICASA, it is illegal to sell a radio transceiver without the abovementioned process being followed, whether it is an ORRA issued license, or an ICASA issued license.

Thus selling your vehicle with a licensed radio installed in it, is illegal. The radio transceiver must be removed.

## **LEGAL FREQUENCIES**

ICASA has granted ORRA certain frequencies to be utilized in the organized 4x4 industry, under the auspices of the AAWDC.

### **AM (29mHz):**

Three legal channels have been allocated to the 4x4 industry, and all licensed radio transmitters must operate on these frequencies, unless another channel is legally licensed to the owner, e.g. a Marine channel.

These channels are:

- Channel 14 - 29.8725 mHz
- Channel 15 - 29.8850 mHz
- Channel 16 - 29.8975 mHz

It is important to note that these channels are used by many users, thus normal radio protocol should be observed at all times.

### **VHF :**

ORRA have been granted three distinct frequencies to be utilized by licensed radio users. These frequencies are issued as standard with CTCSS tones on each frequency to help protect the channel from outside interference.

Two of the frequencies are in close proximity to each other in the 160+ range, and these are the adopted communication channels to be used, within ORRA.

The third frequency is in the low 150+ range, and is therefore being reserved for emergency and logistical usage at organized events, and is not used as a common communication channel.

The frequencies being used are available from an approved ORRA Associated Dealer for programming into a radio, as the radios may only be programmed with these frequencies on production of a legal ORRA license. These are dedicated ORRA channels. The actual frequency data is not generally available and is not to be 'opened' to non ORRA members.

A standard has now also been created across the frequencies and channel definitions, so as to be able to refer to common Channel #, with everybody using the same standard.

## **OBSERVE GOOD RADIO PROTOCOL**

RULE #1: Listen before you transmit

RULE #2: Legally you are obliged to use call signs

RULE #3: No one else can transmit while you are holding your push to talk button down.

Be alert to this

RULE #4: Always keep a listening watch

RULE #5: Speak across the mic, not into it

## **CONVOY PROCEDURES WITHOUT RADIOS:**

The vehicle in front is always responsible for the vehicle behind. He must ensure that the vehicle is in position at all times. The minute he loses sight of the following vehicle he must stop, this will create a chain reaction, and the vehicle he is following will do the same until the whole convoy has stopped. Even when the whole convoy is equipped with radios, this procedure should be adopted, as radios do sometimes cease to operate.

## **IF IN DOUBT, CONTACT ORRA**

## **STAY LEGAL - IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO!!!!**

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