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Subject	Call sign Identification of Remote-Controlled Stations		
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Call sign Identification of Remote-Controlled Stations

Introduction:

Internet-hosted remote-control operation, whether national or transnational, is now commonplace and is lightly regulated – if at all.

Background:

With easy and inexpensive access to high-speed broadband, many radio amateurs use remote-control to compensate for local difficulties in getting on the air, or to gain a competitive advantage while DXing and contesting.

Key Points and Proposal:

The distinguishing characteristics of amateur radio are its absolute independence as a means of communication, and its reliance on amateur-band RF for person-to-person communications.

Regardless of however it may have been engineered in the past, remote-control operation is now dependent on the internet, in that no communications are possible without first connecting, and staying connected, to the internet.

As such, remote operation differs fundamentally from the traditional style of amateur radio operation, even though no differences may be observable by listeners or by those amateurs being worked. Unless the remote operator chooses to announce the fact, the true nature of the contact (internet-dependent) will not be apparent.

Recommendation

During remote operation, where the control operator is situated more than one 1 km from the receiver(s) and/or the transmitter(s) in use, the suffix /R shall be added to the call sign.

NOTE: When used as a suffix, /R does not indicate a country identifier for Russia, just as /M (mobile) does not indicate a country identifier for England. General practice now, including, CEPT, is for country identifiers to precede the call sign - as in G/EI3ABC.