

70 MHz Continents, Countries and Islands (70 MHz CCI) Award Programme

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this document describing the 70 MHz CCI award programme the following terms shall have the following meanings.

“WAC”: means ‘Worked All Continents’, an award programme of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) which recognises amateur radio achievements in respect of communications with amateur stations located in the six continents of the world.

“DXCC”: means ‘DX Century Club’, an award programme of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) which recognises amateur radio achievements in respect of communications with listed territories and entities around the world.

“DXCC Entity”: means an entry in the current DXCC list of territories and locations.

“IOTA”: means ‘Islands On The Air’, an award programme of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) which recognises amateur radio achievements in respect of communications with listed island groups around the world.

“IOTA Reference”: means an island group within the IOTA programme.

GENERAL

IRTS issues CCI certificates to amateur radio stations around the world concerning international amateur radio communications in the 4m band.

The purpose of the CCI award programme developed by Dave Court, EI3IO is to recognise and promote DX achievements by amateur radio operators licensed to use frequencies in the range 69 – 74 MHz, (4 metres). In general the 4m band is limited to a relatively small but growing number of countries, mainly in Region 1 (Europe, Africa and the Middle East) and Region 2 (North America) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). 4m stations are or have been active in over 50 territories in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America.

A second objective is to stimulate an interest in the 4m band in countries which are not authorised to transmit in the range 69 – 74 MHz, by encouraging cross-band working to frequencies in the vicinity of 50.285 MHz and 28.885 MHz, which are recognised centres of cross-band activity.

IRTS reserves the right to amend the qualification criteria for the three levels of CCI award.

AWARD

Three award levels, CCI, CCI century and CCI century plus are offered, based on the number of points obtained through:

- In band two-way working of amateur and associated experimental radio stations located in continents, countries and islands in the 4m band or

- Cross band working of amateur and associated experimental radio stations located in continents, countries and islands in the 4m band by two way in-band working, and for stations not authorised to use 4m, cross-band working to 4m from 6m or 10m, or a combination of cross-band and in-band working.

The awards will be designated In-Band or Cross-Band.

QUALIFICATION

Qualification for a CCI award is based on an examination of a log extract and accompanying certification by the IRTS Awards Manager, which certifies that the applicant has made 70 MHz QSOs with amateur stations in the required number of continents, countries and islands.

All log extracts must show the mode, must mention the 4m or 70 MHz band and if a cross-band QSO, in addition 6m (50 MHz) or 10m (28 MHz). Furthermore, the log extract must clearly show the DXCC entity and applicable IOTA reference, if an island.

The following information should be helpful in determining the continent of a station located adjacent to a continental boundary. North America includes Greenland (OX). Asia includes, Cyprus (5B, ZC4). Europe includes the Azores (CU). Africa includes the Canary Islands (EA8), Ceuta & Melilla (EA9), Italian Islands (IH9 & IG9) and Madeira (CT3).

The rules for obtaining the award build on existing awards (WAC, DXCC and IOTA).

Point System^{1 2}

A combination of WAC continents, DXCC countries and IOTA island groups which are not in the DXCC country list in their own right form the basis of the award. A continent is valid for 10 points (once only), an IOTA island reference which is not listed as a DXCC entity is valid for 2 points and a DXCC entity is valid for 1 point.

Example 1 An applicant works MJ3ABC (Island of Jersey) in IOTA reference EU-013. If this was the first European station worked 10 points would be gained as well as 1 point for Jersey (DXCC entity 122); a total of 11 points. As Jersey is already in the DXCC list its status as IOTA EU-013 is not applicable.

If MJ3ABC had been located on Les Minquiers Islands in IOTA reference EU-099, which is not in addition a named DXCC entity, stations working MJ3ABC would gain 2 points as an IOTA reference, plus another 10 points if this was the first QSO with the European continent.

Example 2 An applicant works OZ9XYZ located near Billund in Jutland (Jylland). Jutland is connected to the European mainland so it can count as 1 point for Denmark (DXCC entity 221).

If OZ9XYZ had been located in Copenhagen on the island of Sjaelland, IOTA reference EU-029 it would count for 2 points, even though Copenhagen is the capital city of Denmark.

¹ The Azores has 3 IOTA references and is a single DXCC entity. For the purposes of the CCI award EU-003 will be considered as the DX entity and will count as 1 point for the Azores. IOTA References EU-175 and EU-089 will count for 2 points. The criteria invoked here is EU-003 hosts the Azore's principal city.

² Cape Verde has 2 IOTA references and is a single DXCC entity. For the purposes of the CCI award AF-005 will be considered as the DX entity and will count as 1 point for Cape Verde. IOTA Reference AF-086 will count for 2 points. The criteria invoked here is AF-005 hosts Cape Verde's capital city.

Two other examples are provided in footnotes 1 and 2. In the case of query concerning the points applicable to any territory please contact the IRTS Awards Manager (Awards at irts.ie).

Points required for CCI awards

For the 70 MHz CCI in-band basic award 50 points are required, 65 for a cross-band award. For the 70 MHz CCI in-band century award 100 points are required, 115 for a cross-band award.

For the 70 MHz CCI in-band century plus award 130 points are required, 145 for a cross-band award.

A 70 MHz CCI century plus award can also be endorsed for additional entities worked in steps of 20 e.g. +20, +40, +60 etc.

It is of course possible for stations licensed to transmit in the 4m band to hold both cross-band and in-band CCI awards.

QSO VALIDATION³

A claim for an in-band or cross-band CCI Award and additional endorsements to a Century Plus award must be accompanied by a certified log extract (see below), to include date, time, frequency (in the case of a cross-band award), mode, station worked and claimed Continent and/or Country and/or Island.

CONDUCT

All QSOs must be made with licensed amateur stations working in the authorised 4m allocation within the frequency range 69 – 74 MHz or with other stations licensed or authorised to communicate with amateur radio stations. Contacts made through repeaters or satellite transponders are not permitted for CCI credit. However Earth-moon-Earth (EME) QSOs are acceptable. In addition:

- All 4m operations should take place in accordance with the regulations pertaining in that jurisdiction.
- All stations contacted must be located on land. QSOs with maritime mobile and aeronautical mobile stations cannot be credited.
- All stations must be contacted from the same DXCC entity.
- All confirmations must be submitted exactly as received by the applicant.

It is a condition of the CCI award that the person applying unreservedly agrees:

- To observe all pertinent regulatory requirements for amateur radio in the country or countries concerned.
- To observe all rules applying to the CCI award process.
- To accept the decisions of the IRTS awards manager.

APPLICATIONS

All applications shall be made electronically. An email shall be sent to the Awards Manager (Awards at irts.ie) which clearly indicates the category of in-band or cross-band CCI award requested (e.g. Basic, Century or Century Plus or endorsements to a Century Plus award) and the number of claimed continents, applicable IOTA references and DXCC entities to qualify for the award. The email address of the applicant should also accept incoming emails in case of a query. A log extract, shall be attached to the email certified as a correct extract from the claimant's log by an officer of a Radio Club or by two licensed radio amateurs. The log extract should also include details of the Continents, Islands and DXCC entities claimed

³ You may wish to ensure confirmations also include a QTH/Grid Locator as a 4m squares (MLA) award is also available.

for each QSO. The certification of the log extract may be attached to the email as a JPEG image of a scanned document.

Please address all correspondence and inquiries relating to CCI awards and all applications to the Awards Manager (Awards at irts.ie)

FEES

There are currently no charges levied for the issue of CCI awards and endorsements.