



INTERIM MEETING OF VHF & up Committee of IARU REGION 1  
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Subject	VHF Contest Guidance on Secondary Methods		
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## Introduction

Following the update to Section-5.3.6 of the IARU Region-1 Contest Rules at Varna in 2014, VHF Newsletter 65 (February-2015), provided additional guidance regarding acceptable and unacceptable examples of secondary methods. We now propose that updated examples be formally incorporated into the VHF Managers Handbook.

## Background

The 2014 Region-1 General Conference at Varna updated Section 5.3.6 to include:

No attempt should be made during the QSO to obtain any part of the required exchange information via other communication methods such as the Internet chat channel, DX Cluster, talk-back on another amateur band, telephone etc.. Such a secondary method invalidates the contest QSO. Self-spotting (advertising its own frequency) on any other communication means, like DX Cluster, chat rooms, etc. shall not be used during the contest. (Varna 2014).

However after the conference it was felt that this did not provide sufficient guidance as secondary methods can be important for supporting activity and Newsletter 65 provided additional interim guidance.

## Proposals

The examples below regarding secondary methods should be added to the end of Section 5.3.6 to provide guidance:-

### Acceptable examples when using a secondary method:

"Shall we make a sked on 144.388?"

"I have QRM, let's move to 144.218 kHz and start again"

"Nothing received, please try again"

"Thank you for a nice QSO" - Note: Only after the QSO has completed on the radio!

### Unacceptable examples when using a secondary method:

"I need your serial number"

"Please repeat all information"

"Please confirm <report>, <serial number>, <locator> etc."

The comment against the fourth 'acceptable' example is to make it clear that you can only say this AFTER the QSO has been properly completed on air (eg by 73 or 'RRR' etc).

## Recommendations

Update Section 5.3.6 by adding the acceptable/unacceptable examples of secondary methods as per the proposals above.