

TransCanadaNet GuideLine

Protocol & Tips for NetControlStations

(Revision 5, 20170417)

- The TCN starts at 18:00Z on Sundays and most Canadian Statutory Holidays
- The net continues until there are no more check-ins or 20:00Z whichever ever comes first.
- The focus of the net is to provide a pleasant, lighthearted, diplomatic forum for Canadian radio amateurs to exchange greetings, get signal reports, give weather reports and/or provide any information of interest.
- The net is opened by the Western Net Controller(W_NCS) for period one, then on odd dates of the month control is passed to Eastern NCS (E_NCS) for period 2 who passes it to Central NCS (C_NCS) for period 3. On even dates C_NCS does period 2 and E_NCS period 3.
- The maximum duration objective for any period is set at 15 minutes and should be limited to no more than 20 minutes. The intent is to not to leave stations within NCS skip zone darkness for too long without being able to hear a controller and to keep the NCS rotation reasonably close to schedule. The minimum length of a period is determined by a lack of further check-ins from all appropriate beam heading zones. If sufficient period time is left the NCS should announce “last call before switching control to the next region” to provide last chance incentive for operators that might be hesitating and to give a heads up to the next controller on the rotation.
- If the check-in pileups are found to be too deep calling for check-ins by region can be useful. C_NCS and E_NCS operators may find it useful to ask for directional check-ins only in order to take full advantage of the current beam heading. Generally we have just been calling for any check ins from anywhere which is more considerate to those that don't wish to wait around long to check in. When practical mobile stations should be bumped to the top of the check-in list considering the nature of their operation.
- It is helpful if C_NCS and E_NCS operators keep announcing their new beam headings and, as appropriate, the direction of antenna rotation so that stations waiting to check have a way of knowing when they should have the best chance of being heard.
- Transmissions with individual stations should be long enough to provide a full and friendly information acknowledgment or to complete any business at hand but generally limited to a few short, information of general interest transmissions. In consideration of keeping the net moving along one-on-one oriented chats of more than a minute or two should be pleasantly deferred to a QSO after net or for a very brief QSO off net frequency at the end of the current period.
- If a station within the USA checks in on phone that station should be thanked with delicacy for checking in (without repeating their full call sign) but informed of the FCC band allocation infringement for phone operation below 14.150 MHz. They then should be asked to re-check on CW with an upper shift offset (ie. 14,141 KHz) in a few minutes if they wish to do so. Rather than turning it back to the USA station the NCS should then move on to the next station on the list or make another call for check-ins as appropriate. (The only exception would be in the unlikely case of an emergency situation identified by the USA station at the onset. In such a case the band allocation regulations do not apply and the emergency traffic should be handled on a priority basis.)
- As possible all three NCS stations should maintain a watch for stations declaring “contact” or “relay” as often the current period NCS may be skip zone blocked and thus not be able to hear the breaking station.

73 & Enjoy! .._.. ..._.. Tom, VA7TA, TCN Manager