

Requirements for Operating a Low Power Radio Station

A low power or community radio station is one that operates within a 10-mile radius and has as its main focus the benefit of the persons within that limited area.

To operate a low power radio station, you must first ascertain the availability of spectrum from the Spectrum Management Authority (SMA) <http://www.sma.gov.jm/>. After you have received approval from SMA and have been assigned the necessary spectrum, you may apply to the BCJ for approval.

The BCJ will need to be satisfied about the purpose to which the radio station will be put and be assured that appropriate systems and personnel are in place to manage the content which will be broadcast.

The following information will need to be submitted:

1. Intended purpose of the station
2. Location
3. Organizational structure
4. Programme schedule and description of programmes
5. Name and schedule of person(s) responsible for programming and qualifications
6. Plans for training and preparation of presenters
7. Information on equipment to be used (particularly studio equipment)
8. Information on the funding of the operation
9. Information on arrangements for rights clearance of content to be broadcast (e.g. MOU with JACAP and JAMMS) if you are using copyrighted content

Note also that low power/community radio stations are not to engage in commercial broadcasting. That is, the station will not be allowed to transmit commercial matter such as advertisements/commercials or political broadcasts.

It will be a condition of any approval that there be adherence to broadcasting rules, including the Children's Code for Programming. All content broadcast must be rated "G", that is, it must be suitable for a general audience.