



INTRODUCTION TO QSL BUREAU

9V1HY

25/2/2021


SARTS meeting

What is QSL Bureau?

- The QSL bureau or QSL buro is a well-established system for sending amateur radio QSL cards in bulk.
- Sending QSL cards directly is costly as many of them will need to be sent abroad.
- The concept of the QSL bureau enables cards to be sent in bulk at all stages of the journey from sender to recipient.



Using the bureau

- Most countries with large amateur radio populations have a QSL bureau. However there are many countries where there is no bureau.
 - Members can send and receive cards via the bureau run by their national society.
 - Non-members can collect cards but not send them.
- 

How to send

- The sender sends a bundle of QSL cards to the national bureau.
- Cards from many stations in that country are sorted and sent in bulk to the destination country and again sorted by the bureau.
- When sufficient cards have accumulated to be sent to the recipient, they are mailed to him / her.





How to receive

- (For other societies) Lodge self addressed envelopes with pre-paid stamps attached to national society.
- (For SARTS) Self-collect at monthly meeting.
- Email the QSL manager to check the quantity and settle the shipping. Fees can be settled privately.
- Ask a friend to collect on behalf of you.




Pros and Cons

- Pros:

- Save costs
- Can send in bulk
- No need to check individual addresses
- Good return rate

- Cons:

- Slow (1-2 years)
 - Not everyone uses the bureau
- 



Challenges

- Computer-generated QSLs have flooded the system with cards that are not desired by the intended recipients.
- Amateurs have become more environmentally conscious.
- Electronic confirmation systems have reduced the necessity of collecting cards to earn awards.
- Newer, younger amateur licensees are not as wedded to the tradition of QSL card exchange as their older counterparts.

Tips of sending cards via Buro

- Always check if the recipient accept Buro cards.
- Be patient, avoid sending multiple cards for same QSO.
- Write Dx and Via callsign clearly.
- You may send cards in bulk directly to the bureau of a country (address from IARU website).
- Sort cards by country before sending them to the bureau.

QSL: Bureau, Direct, LoTW

QSL: BURO, LOTW & EQSL

QSL: Direct or Via Bureau



QSL: LoTW, eQSL or direct for paper QSL

QSL: LoTW or mail SASE

QSL: Direct only





Thank you!