



8 February 2023

To: All traffic operators and emergency communications organizations.

Fm: Radio Relay International

Re: RRI Digital Traffic Network and the RRI-Winlink Gateway System Interoperability Requirements

RRI Operating Directive

It has come to the attention of Radio Relay International that some radio amateurs are originating radiogram-ICS213 messages that are formatted in a manner contrary to RRI interoperability standards.

“Interoperability” is defined as the ability of communications traffic to move between modes and networks intact and with minimal delay or error. Effective interoperability is predicated on the use of standard protocols that can be applied to all networks. This harmonization of procedures limits delays and prevents errors in record message traffic.

For example, one may originate a radiogram or radiogram-ICS213 message via the *RRI Digital Traffic Network*, in mixed case with complex abbreviations and punctuation. However, if that message must be transferred to a voice, CW or non-amateur network (i.e. a public safety talk group or emergency services dispatch channel) to achieve last-mile delivery, those conveying the message may not be trained or equipped to transfer the content accurately.

RRI standards require that all radiogram or radiogram-ICS213 messages must be originated in upper case (all-capitals), and the punctuation utilized must also conform to RRI guidelines. If one must include non-standard punctuation, it should be spelled-out.

Effective immediately, messages originated via the RRI Digital Traffic Network or the RRI-Winlink gateways that do not conform to RRI interoperability standard may be serviced back to the originator if it is determined that the format or content may result in disruptions to net operations or problematic errors during the delivery process. While we regret any inconvenience this may cause, the overarching imperative is the preservation of network efficiency and interoperability.

All traffic and EmComm operators are invited to visit the Radio Relay International web page to better understand our protocols and guidelines. Our “publications” section contains not just training documents and field manuals, but also training videos that explain these concepts. Please visit **www.radiorelay.org**

Organizations wishing to experiment with unique message formats or specialized procedures should contact Radio Relay International in advance so appropriate arrangements can be made to facilitate the process without disrupting routine net operations. Please contact Steve Hansen (KB1TCE), the RRI Affiliated Programs Manager, or James Wades (WB8SIW) RRI Emergency Management Director and Board Chair, to make the necessary arrangements.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

73,

Radio Relay International

www.radiorelay.org