

OKBOTA RULES

OKBOTA is an amateur radio activity aimed at operating from bunkers and fortified shelters in the Czech Republic. It is part of the global World-wide **Bunkers On The Air** (WWBOTA, see wwbota.org) program, but each participating country has the option to define its own detailed rules. For this purpose, the following national rules have been created and are binding for OKBOTA participants. The rules are subject to further development and modification in the future. The current version will always be posted on the okbota.cz page, in the Rules section. In case of ambiguity in the interpretation of the rules, the OKBOTA National Coordinator makes the final decision. If you have any questions about these rules or any other questions, please contact us at info@okbota.cz.

Although this is not a contest, participating radio amateurs and short-wave listeners (SWL) may earn diplomas and awards on an ongoing basis. One can participate either as an "**activator**" - a radio amateur transmitting near an approved facility, or as a "**hunter**" - a radio amateur who makes a contact with an activator, or a listener who hears such a contact.

I. IF YOU ARE AN ACTIVATOR

1. Activate only bunkers or objects listed on wwbota.org or okbota.cz.
2. Bunkers can only be activated in person, either portable or mobile.
3. When activating a bunker, you must stay within **300 meters** of the object. If, on rare occasions, a distance greater than 300 meters is objectively required for a successful catch, you can always contact the organizers in advance to request an exception. If granted, the agreed distance applies in the specific case.
4. It is not possible to activate multiple objects in bulk at the same time. For each activation, choose only one object from the list. If there are more than one object to activate within a radius of 300 meters, you can perform several activations in succession from one location, but never simultaneously. Therefore, you can only start activating another object after the previous activation has been successfully completed. You cannot then return to a previous completed activation within one day and provide multiple references during subsequent contacts - this would be considered as multi-activation, which is not allowed.
5. If you are unable to complete an object activation in one day, you can return and complete it subsequently, at any time interval, but no earlier than the following day. For the annual awards category, you must successfully activate the object (i.e., start and complete activation) within one calendar year.
6. To successfully activate an object, at least 25 contacts with different stations must be established. Contacts with different stations on different days are added together and counted.
7. A contact with the same station is only valid once per activation per day, regardless of mode of operation or band. However, it shall not be considered a duplicate if the contact with the same station occurs once on each subsequent day of the same activation.
8. Multiple successful activations of the same object cannot be counted towards earning a particular diploma, unless otherwise specified in the award conditions.
9. If the bunker is privately owned or access to it is restricted in any way, do not enter the bunker without the owner's permission!
10. It is not within the power of the organizers to personally inspect all objects on the list for suitability for activation. If, when attempting to activate, you find an object unsuitable for activation, please report it, along with a description, to info@okbota.cz and we will review the request and possibly remove it from the list or add more information for other activators. Typically, these may be bunkers where activation, even if the distance limit is observed, would violate laws or regulations or disturb private property (e.g., privately owned bunkers, bunkers located in nature preserves, military

restricted areas, dangerous or otherwise inappropriate locations, or locations where activation is restricted by season, etc.).

11. Always be mindful of your own safety, you activate at your own risk. When activating, be considerate and respectful of your surroundings and the environment.
12. The organizers are not responsible for any violations of the law by participants during activation.
13. After each activity at the bunker where at least one contact has been made, ALWAYS email logs in ADI format to logs@okbota.cz as soon as possible. After the logs have been processed by the organizers, a table with a summary of the activations will be available on the OKBOT website. The data in this spreadsheet is critical for recognizing valid activations and counting for both activators and hunters. The activator logs are important not only for you, but also for the hunters who are waiting for them to count their participation in their evaluation. So don't delay in submitting them and always send them in whether you have successfully completed the activation or not.
14. At a minimum, the ADI log must include:
 - QSO_DATE the date the QSO was initiated YYYYMMDD
 - TIME_ON HHMM or HHMMSS in UTC
 - BAND QSO Band
 - MODE QSO Mode
 - RST_SENT signal report sent
 - RST_RCVD signal report received
 - CAL callsign of station worked
 - STATION_CALLSIGN callsign (used in contact)
 - MY_SIG my BOTA activity - WWBOTA
 - MY_SIG_INFO my BOTA reference (like B/OK-0123)

For logging, we recommend the Ham2K Portable Logger (www.polo.ham2k.com), which has proven itself to be a good logger, is partially adapted for BOTA activities and offers a seamless export of the ADI format in the required structure.

15. If the conditions for the award are fulfilled, submit your application by email to award@okbota.cz, stating your call sign, name and surname and the type of diploma you are applying for.
16. After checking, successful activators will be sent the award electronically as an email attachment or a link to download it in a printable format.

II. IF YOU ARE A HUNTER OR A LISTENER (SWL)

1. The rule of one activation (passing one object reference) per single contact applies to both the activator and the hunter. Multi-activations are not allowed and cannot be counted for the award system. For multiple objects available from a single location, activators proceed one activation at a time. They do not revert to previous completed activations and always communicate only the reference of the object they are just activating.
2. You can track your progress as a hunter in the activation overview on okbota.cz. The hunter does not send his/her logs to the organizers, only the activators' data is decisive. Processing, checking and publishing activator logs can take some time, so be patient. If you do not find a record of your contact with an activator in the log, first check if the activator has published logs from the same activation with other stations. If so, contact the activator directly to request the log to be edited and resubmitted for publication. The organizers cannot help you in this area.
3. If you qualify for an award, email your application to award@okbota.cz, stating at least your call sign/listener ID, first and last name, and the type of award you are applying for.
4. In addition to the application, the listener should attach a log with related contacts in a generally readable format.
5. After review, we will send successful hunters or listeners the diploma electronically as an email attachment or a link to download in printable format.

III. CONTACTS AND LOGS

1. Each activator, hunter and listener shall keep a log of all successful contacts, which they shall be able to produce in the required format on request.
2. However, this activity is based primarily on the principles of trust, fair play and Ham Spirit. Therefore, the organizers do not plan to check in detail whether or not the contacts sent have been successful. The aim is to liven up the traffic on the bands and enjoy a common hobby. If someone chooses to cheat, that is their decision.
3. A successful contact is considered to be at least an exchange of a call sign and RS(T) report. If necessary, the activator may also provide the object reference number as additional information upon request of the hunter. Only one object reference is valid per a single contact. Multi-activations are not allowed.
4. The contact can be established on all approved amateur radio bands in the form of phone, CW and digi. It is necessary to observe all legal restrictions for operation in a given country.
5. The general rule of "direct only" applies, i.e. only standard direct contacts between two stations on amateur radio bands are valid. Contacts made via a terrestrial transponder or otherwise via the Internet (DMR, GDR, packet radio, etc.) cannot be counted as valid for activation.

IV. AWARDS

The main types of OKBOTA awards/diplomas are listed below. In addition to the main awards listed, additional and occasional diplomas are planned. So-called commemorative certificates may also be issued, which are not in the nature of a diploma, but nevertheless certify participation in a specific OKBOTA event held on specific occasions and thus have more of a souvenir value. These awards are only relevant to the OKBOTA program. Other participating countries and the WWBOTA Headquarters may have their own system of awards which are not included in this program.

1. ANNUAL OKBOTA AWARDS

- Activations are always for a period of one calendar year. For the annual awards system, only the different objects in a given calendar year are counted. The same object may be activated again in a subsequent calendar year but will again only be counted once for that calendar year.

a) Annual awards for activators

(number of bunkers activated in a given calendar year):

- Bronze award for 5 Czech bunkers activated
- Silver Award for 10 Czech bunkers activated
- Gold Award for 25 activated Czech bunkers

b) Annual awards for hunters and listeners

(number of bunkers hunted in a given calendar year):

- Bronze Award for 20 Czech bunkers hunted.
- Silver award for 40 Czech bunkers hunted
- Gold prize for 80 Czech bunkers fished

2. LIFETIME OKBOTA AWARDS

- All activations of various objects since the start of OKBOT activity are counted cumulatively. Each object is counted only once. Applies to activators as well as hunters and listeners.

a) Lifetime achievement for activators

(total number of different bunkers activated):

- Bronze award for 50 activated Czech bunkers
- Silver Award for 100 activated Czech bunkers
- Gold Award for 200 Czech bunkers activated

b) Lifetime achievement award for hunters and listeners

(total number of different activations hunted, i.e. a connection to the same station from the same object is valid only once):

- Bronze award for 100 Czech bunkers hunted.
- Silver prize for 300 Czech bunkers hunted
- Gold prize for 600 Czech bunkers fired

V. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OBJECT TO BE ACTIVATED AND REQUEST FOR DATABASE EXTENSION

We welcome any suggestions for further extensions, updates or other modifications to the existing object database. Below are the characteristics that must be met by objects that can be added to the database and the procedure for approving new objects, as well as the procedure for contacting the OKBOTA team with requests for modifications to the existing database.

1. The object must be of the nature of a military or civil defense shelter/bunker and related to a historical period, particularly the 20th century and beyond. It can be both abandoned or used for another purpose (e.g. museum) and active.
2. The object must physically exist, be visible and accessible for activation.
3. The object must be suitable for activation and not be in violation of OKBOTA rules.
4. The applicant shall send information about the object to info@okbota.cz, giving at least the name of the object, GPS coordinates, the name of the place (city, region, district, etc.) and ideally adding other information that may be of interest to the participants (history, photos, link to the object's website, link to Mapy.cz, etc.).
5. The local OKBOTA coordinators will assess the application and decide whether or not to include it in the list. If necessary, they will request additional information. Their decision is final.
6. In case of inclusion in the list, they will assign an identification code to the object and ensure publication on the OKBOTA and WWBOTA websites. Objects will be added gradually in batches once sufficient numbers have been collected. Thus, a longer period of time may elapse between request and eventual publication.
7. Any inaccuracies in the database and requests for further modification can be reported by participants by email to info@okbota.cz.

Last updated: 15th February 2025