





FCC Rules

FCC Rules

- All of the FCC rules are found in:
 - The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 47
- The rules governing the Amateur Radio Service are found in:
 - CFR Title 47, Part 97.
- The following parts also contain rules affecting the Amateur Radio Service:
 - CFR Title 47, Part 2 -- Frequency allocations, radio treaty matters, and general rules & regulations
 - CFR Title 47, Part 17 Antenna Structures









Operating Standards

Frequency and Emission Privileges

- Amateur Extra class licensees have exclusive frequency privileges on certain amateur radio bands.
 - 80m: 3.500 MHz to 3.525 MHz
 - 75m: 3.600 MHz to 3.700 MHz
 - 40m: 7.000 MHz to 7.025 MHz
 - 20m: 14.000 MHz to 14.025 MHz
 - 20m: 14.150 MHz to 14.175 MHz
 - 15m: 21.000 MHz to 21.025 MHz
 - 15m: 21.200 MHz to 21.225 MHz













Operating Standards

Managing Your Sidebands

- All energy emitted by your transmitter must be contained within the band segment authorized.
- The frequency shown on your VFO display is **NOT** where your signal actually is.
 - All modulated signals, including CW, have sidebands.
 - Know where your sidebands are!





E1A01 -- When using a transceiver that displays the carrier frequency of phone signals, which of the following displayed frequencies represents the highest frequency at which a properly adjusted USB emission will be totally within the band?

- A. The exact upper band edge
- B. 300 Hz below the upper band edge
- C. 1 kHz below the upper band edge
- D. 3 kHz below the upper band edge

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E1A02 -- When using a transceiver that displays the carrier frequency of phone signals, which of the following displayed frequencies represents the lowest frequency at which a properly adjusted LSB emission will be totally within the band?

- A. The exact lower band edge
- B. 300 Hz above the lower band edge
- C. 1 kHz above the lower band edge
- D. 3 kHz above the lower band edge

E1A03 -- With your transceiver displaying the carrier frequency of phone signals, you hear a DX station calling CQ on 14.349 MHz USB. Is it legal to return the call using upper sideband on the same frequency?

- A. Yes, because the DX station initiated the contact
- B. Yes, because the displayed frequency is within the 20 meter band
- C. No, the sideband will extend beyond the band edge
- D. No, U.S. stations are not permitted to use phone emissions above 14.340 MHz

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E1A04 -- With your transceiver displaying the carrier frequency of phone signals, you hear a DX station calling CQ on 3.601 MHz LSB. Is it legal to return the call using lower sideband on the same frequency?

- A. Yes, because the DX station initiated the contact
- B. Yes, because the displayed frequency is within the 75 meter phone band segment
- C. No, the sideband will extend beyond the edge of the phone band segment
 - D. No, U.S. stations are not permitted to use phone emissions below 3.610 MHz





E1A07 -- Which amateur band requires transmission on specific channels rather than on a range of frequencies?

- A. 12 meter band
- B. 17 meter band
- C. 30 meter band
- D. 60 meter band

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- C. 1.5 kHz
- ▶ D. 2.8 kHz



E1A08 -- If a station in a message forwarding system inadvertently forwards a message that is in violation of FCC rules, who is primarily accountable for the rules violation?

- A. The control operator of the packet bulletin board station
- B. The control operator of the originating station
 - C. The control operators of all the stations in the system
 - D. The control operators of all the stations in the system not authenticating the source from which they accept communications



E1A09 -- What is the first action you should take if your digital message forwarding station inadvertently forwards a communication that violates FCC rules?

- A. Discontinue forwarding the communication as soon as you become aware of it
 - B. Notify the originating station that the communication does not comply with FCC rules
 - C. Notify the nearest FCC Field Engineer's office
 - D. Discontinue forwarding all messages







Operating Standards

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)

- All communications must be authorized by the EMA director of the area served.
- May communicate with non-RACES (non-amateur) stations if authorized.
- Presidential War Emergency Powers
 - Communications Act of 1934
 - Specific frequencies listed in FCC Part 214











Operating Standards

Stations Aboard Ships or Aircraft

- Installation must be approved by master of vessel or pilot in command of aircraft.
- Installation must be separate from and independent of ship or aircraft radios.
 - Common antenna permitted.
- Installation must not constitute a hazard to life or property. If in aircraft, no operation during IFR flight unless installation complies with FAA rules.



E1A10 -- If an amateur station is installed aboard a ship or aircraft, what condition must be met before the station is operated?

- A. Its operation must be approved by the master of the ship or the pilot in command of the aircraft
- B. The amateur station operator must agree not to transmit when the main radio of the ship or aircraft is in use
- C. The amateur station must have a power supply that is completely independent of the main ship or aircraft power supply
- D. The amateur operator must have an FCC Marine or Aircraft endorsement on his or her amateur license



E1A11 -- What authorization or licensing is required when operating an amateur station aboard a U.S.-registered vessel in international waters?

- A. Any amateur license with an FCC Marine or Aircraft endorsement
- B. Any FCC-issued amateur license
- C. Only General class or higher amateur licenses
- D. An unrestricted Radiotelephone Operator Permit



- A. Only a person with an FCC Marine Radio
- B. Any person holding an FCC issued amateur license or who is authorized for alien reciprocal operation
- C. Only a person named in an amateur station license grant
- D. Any person named in an amateur station license grant or a person holding an unrestricted Radiotelephone Operator Permit





Station Restrictions

Operating Restrictions

§ 97.121 Restricted operation.

(a) If the operation of an amateur station causes general interference to the reception of transmissions from stations operating in the domestic broadcast service when receivers of good engineering design, including adequate selectivity characteristics, are used to receive such transmissions, and this fact is made known to the amateur station licensee, the amateur station shall not be operated during the hours from 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., local time, and on Sunday for the additional period from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m., local time, upon the frequency or frequencies used when the interference is created.
(b) In general, such steps as may be necessary to minimize interference to stations operating in other services may be required after investigation by the FCC.







Station Restrictions

Operating Restrictions

- Spurious emissions must be below limits set by FCC rules.
 - For frequencies below 30 MHz, spurious emissions must be at least 43 dB below mean power output of transmitter. [§97.307(d)]
 - For frequencies in the range of 30-225 MHz, spurious emissions must be at least 60 dB below mean power output of transmitter. [§97.307(e)]



E1B08 -- What limitations may the FCC place on an amateur station if its signal causes interference to domestic broadcast reception, assuming that the receivers involved are of good engineering design?

- A. The amateur station must cease operation
- B. The amateur station must cease operation on all frequencies below 30 MHz
- C. The amateur station must cease operation on all frequencies above 30 MHz
- D. The amateur station must avoid transmitting during certain hours on frequencies that cause the interference

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E1B11 -- What is the permitted mean power of any spurious emission relative to the mean power of the fundamental emission from a station transmitter or external RF amplifier installed after January 1, 2003, and transmitting on a frequency below 30 MHZ?

- A. At least 43 dB below
- B. At least 53 dB below
- C. At least 63 dB below
- D. At least 73 dB below



Station Restrictions

Location Restrictions

- Area of environmental, historical, or cultural significance.
 - Must file Environmental Assessment with FCC.
- Within 1 mile of FCC monitoring facility.
 - Facility manager may impose restrictions.











Station Restrictions

Antenna Restrictions

- Zoning Ordinances
 - FCC rules require minimum practical regulation to accomplish state or local government's legitimate purpose and must reasonably accommodate amateur communications. [§97.15(b)] (a.k.a. PRB-1)
- Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CCR's)
 - Private agreements not covered by FCC rules.
 Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017 (H.R. 555).
 - Legally binding contracts.
 - Common in most sub-divisions.





E1B03 -- Within what distance must an amateur station protect an FCC monitoring facility from harmful interference?

A. 1 mile

- B. 3 miles
- C. 10 miles
- D. 30 miles

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E1B04 -- What must be done before placing an amateur station within an officially designated wilderness area or wildlife preserve, or an area listed in the National Register of Historical Places?

- A. A proposal must be submitted to the National Park Service
- B. A letter of intent must be filed with the National Audubon Society
- C. An Environmental Assessment must be submitted to the FCC
 - D. A form FSD-15 must be submitted to the Department of the Interior

E1B06 -- Which of the following additional rules apply if you are installing an amateur station antenna at a site at or near a public use airport?

- A. You may have to notify the Federal Aviation Administration and register it with the FCC as required by Part 17 of FCC rules
- B. No special rules apply if your antenna structure will be less than 300 feet in height
- C. You must file an Environmental Impact Statement with the EPA before construction begins
- D. You must obtain a construction permit from the airport zoning authority





There are 3 types of station control recognized in the FCC Rules:

- Local control.
- Remote control.
- Automatic control.







Remote Control

- Control operator is present at a control point which is not at the station location.
- Control point connected to station via:
 - Radio (auxiliary station).
 - a.k.a. Telecommand.
 - Wire or dedicated telephone line.
 - Dial-up telephone connection.
 - Local-area computer network (LAN).
 - Wide-area computer network (WAN, a.k.a -- Internet).













Automatic Control

- Control operator is not present at a control point.
 - Repeater Stations.
 - Auxiliary Stations.
 - Beacon Stations.
- Control operator is still legally responsible for station operation.
- No third-party traffic unless RTTY or data.





Automatic Control

- Auxiliary Stations
 - An amateur station transmitting communications pointto-point within a system of cooperating amateur stations.
 - One-way communications are authorized.
 - Authorized same frequencies as repeater stations except no 10m or 6m operations.





Automatic Retransmission of Amateur Radio Communications

- Only the following types of stations are authorized to automatically retransmit signals from other amateur radio stations:
 - Repeater stations.
 - Auxiliary stations.
 - Space stations.







- A. Under local control there is no control operator
- B. Under automatic control the control operator is not required to be present at the control point
- C. Under automatic control there is no control operator
- D. Under local control a control operator is not required to be present at a control point





E1C09 -- Which of these ranges of frequencies is available for an automatically controlled repeater operating below 30 MHz?

- A. 18.110 18.168 MHz
- B. 24.940 24.990 MHz
- C. 10.100 10.150 MHz
- D. 29.500 29.700 MHz





Amateur Satellite Service

Definitions

- Amateur Satellite Service.
 - A radio communications service using amateur radio stations on satellites.
- Earth Station.
 - An amateur radio station on or within 50km of the Earth's surface used for space communications.
- Space Station
 - An amateur radio station located more than 50km above the Earth's surface.




Amateur Satellite Service

Telecommand

- Except for ISS, local control of a space station is not possible.
- Telecommand stations control the functions of a satellite.
 - Telecommand of space stations should be protected.
 - Encryption of commands is permitted.
 - Exception to prohibition on codes & ciphers to obscure meaning.



























- A. 70 cm only
- B. 70 cm and 13 cm
- C. 70 cm and 33 cm
- D. 33 cm and 13 cm











Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC)

- An organization that has signed an agreement with the FCC to coordinate amateur radio examinations.
 - Accredits Volunteer Examiners (VE's).
 - Coordinates exam sessions.
 - Maintains records of all exam sessions, including passes & failures.
 - Forwards successful applications to the FCC for processing.





Volunteer Examiner (VE) Requirements

- Be accredited by the coordinating VEC .
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Never had amateur radio license suspended or revoked.
- Hold an amateur radio operator license of the appropriate class for the element to be administered.









Exam Preparation

- All of the VEC's cooperate to maintain the question pool for each exam element.
 - National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC)
 - Question Pool Committee (QPC).
 - Question pools are reviewed & revised on a 4-year cycle.





Exam Preparation

- Each question pool is divided into sections.
 - Section denoted by first 3 characters of the question number.
 - Technician & General question pools each have 35 sections.
 - Amateur Extra question pool has 50 sections.
- An exam will consist of one question from each section of the question pool.









Exam Session Administration

- During the exam.
 - Each VE on the team is individually responsible for the proper administration & supervision of the exam session.

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Exam Session Administration

- During the exam.
 - Grade of 74% or better required to pass.

Element Nr	License Class	Nr of Questions	Minimunm Nr Right	Maximum Nr Wrong
2	Technician	35	26	9
3	General	35	26	9
4	Extra	50	37	13









Exam Session Administration

- Test Fees
 - A VEC may choose to collect a test fee from the applicants or not.
 - IF a VEC collects a fee for taking an examination, then the fee paid by ALL applicants at ALL test sessions coordinated by that VEC during any calendar year MUST BE THE SAME.
 - Currently ARRL-VEC charges a fee of \$15.
 - Currently W5YI-VEC charges a fee of \$14.
 - Laurel VEC has never charged a test fee.





















E1E11 -- What must the VE team do if an examinee scores a passing grade on all examination elements needed for an upgrade or new license?

- A. Photocopy all examination documents and forward them to the FCC for processing
- B. Three VEs must certify that the examinee is qualified for the license grant and that they have complied with the administering VE requirements
 - C. Issue the examinee the new or upgrade license
 - D. All these choices are correct



- B. Maintain the application form with the VEC's records
- C. Send the application form to the FCC and inform the FCC of the grade
- D. Destroy the application form





E1E09 -- What may be the penalty for a VE who fraudulently administers or certifies an examination?

- A. Revocation of the VE's amateur station license grant and the suspension of the VE's amateur operator license grant
- B. A fine of up to \$1000 per occurrence
- C. A sentence of up to one year in prison
- D. All of these choices are correct

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Auxiliary Stations

- An amateur station transmitting communications point-to-point within a system of cooperating amateur stations.
- Remote control.
- Split-site repeaters.
- Hand-held to mobile "cross-band repeater".
- One-way communications are authorized.
- Authorized same frequencies as repeater stations except no 10m or 6m operations.
- Any class operator license except Novice.







External Power Amplifiers

- Amplifiers below 144 MHz may require FCC certification before they can be marketed.
 - Must meet spurious emission standards at full power output or 1500 Watts, whichever is less.
 - Must have a maximum gain of 15 dB.
 - Must have no gain between 26 MHz and 28 MHz.





E1F03 -- Under what circumstances may a dealer sell an external RF power amplifier capable of operation below 144 MHz if it has not been granted FCC certification?

- A. It was purchased in used condition from an amateur operator and is sold to another amateur operator for use at that operator's station
- B. The equipment dealer assembled it from a kit
- C. It was imported from a manufacturer in a country that does not require certification of RF power amplifiers
- D. It was imported from a manufacturer in another country, and it was certificated by that country's government









Station Restrictions

Line A and National Quiet Zones

- Additional restrictions in certain other geographic locations.
 - White Sands, NM
 - Aricebo, PR
 - etc.

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Business and Payment

• You CANNOT

- Accept payment for communications services.
 - Exception #1 Control operator of station sending regularlyscheduled amateur radio bulletins or code practice.
 - At least 40 hours per week.
 - On at least 6 MF or HF bands.
 - Schedule published at least 30 days in advance.
 - Exception #2 School teacher operating incidental to classroom instruction.





Business and Payment

- You CAN send message to a business IF neither you nor your employer has a pecuniary interest in the communications.
- You can send messages to a foreign country ONLY if of a personal nature or incidental to purposes of amateur radio. Therefore, no business communications of any type.











Spread Spectrum Operation

- A transmission technique that spreads the signal over a wide bandwidth.
 - a.k.a. Bandwidth-expansion modulation.
- Spreading a little power over a wide bandwidth minimizes interference.







Spread Spectrum Operation

- Only above 222 MHz.
- Maximum power 10 Watts PEP.
- Can communicate with stations located in:
 - Any area regulated by the FCC.
 - Any nation which allows spread spectrum operation.
- Must not be used to obscure the meaning of the communications.




- A. A station transmitting SS emission must not cause harmful interference to other stations employing other authorized emissions
- B. The transmitting station must be in an area regulated by the FCC or in a country that permits SS emissions
- C. The transmission must not be used to obscure the meaning of any communication
- D. All of these choices are correct











Miscellaneous Rules

Non-US Operating Agreements

- ITU Reciprocal Permit
 - An agreement between the US and a country that does not participate in either CEPT or IARP.

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E1C11 -- Which of the following operating arrangements allows an FCC-licensed U.S. citizen to operate in many European countries, and alien amateurs from many European countries to operate in the U.S.?

- A. CEPT agreement
 - B. IARP agreement
 - C. ITU reciprocal license
 - D. D. All of these choices are correct







Miscellaneous Rules

Special Temporary Authority (STA)

- Temporary permission to use modes or frequencies not normally allowed by the FCC Rules & Regulations.
- Provides ability for experimental communications for a limited period of time, normally less than 6 months.







