

FCC Rules

Amateur Radio Service: purpose and permissible use of the Amateur Radio Service, operator/primary station license grant, where FCC rules are codified, basis and purpose of FCC rules, meanings of basic terms used in FCC rules, interference, spectrum management

The Amateur Radio Service is a service administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC is the agency that regulates and enforces the rules for the Amateur Radio Service in the United States. (T1A02) Part 97 is the part of the FCC regulations that contains the rules governing the Amateur Radio Service. (T1A03)

Part 97.1 lists five “purposes” for the existence of amateur radio.

- Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- Allowing licensed operators to conduct radio experiments and to communicate with other licensed hams around the world. (T1A12)
- Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art (T1A01)
- Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill. (T1A05)

Part 97 also defines terms and concepts that every amateur radio operator needs to know. For example, the FCC Part 97 definition of an amateur station is a station in the Amateur Radio Service consisting of the apparatus necessary for carrying on radio communications. (T1A10)

One of the most important concepts in amateur radio is that of harmful interference. The FCC definition of harmful interference is that which seriously degrades, obstructs, or repeatedly interrupts a radio communication service operating in accordance with the Radio Regulations. (T1A04) At no time is willful interference to other amateur radio stations permitted. (T1A11)

The Radio Navigation Service is one of the services that are protected from interference by amateur signals under all circumstances. (T1A06) If you are operating on the 23 cm band and learn that you are interfering with a radio location station outside the United States, you must stop operating or take steps to eliminate the harmful interference. (T1A14)

The FCC Part 97 definition of telemetry is a one-way transmission of measurements at a distance from the measuring instrument. (T1A07) Transmitting telemetry is one of the very few examples of a one-way amateur communication. Another is sending telecommand, usually to a satellite or radio-control model. The FCC Part 97 definition of Telecommand is a one-way transmission to initiate, modify or terminate functions of a device at a distance. (T1A13)

The Frequency Coordinator is the entity that recommends transmit/receive channels and other parameters for auxiliary and repeater stations. (T1A08) Amateur operators in a local or regional area whose stations are eligible to be auxiliary or repeater stations select a Frequency Coordinator. (T1A09)

REVIEW QUESTIONS: (14)

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