



# Technician License Course Chapter 6

## Lesson Module 18:

### Operating Regulations:

Control Operators; Station Identification;  
Third-Party Communications



**ARRL** *The national association for  
AMATEUR RADIO*

# Control Operator

A station must be operated under control of a single *Control Operator*. The control operator is responsible for making sure that FCC rules are followed.

- Must have a valid FCC issued Amateur Radio license.
- Doesn't have to be the station licensee but must be designated by the licensee.
- Station must operate within the authorization of the control operator's license.



# The Control Point

The control operator must be present at a control point of the station in order to prevent unauthorized transmissions.

- The control point is usually at the transmitter location or where the on-off switch can be operated.
- The control point can be at a remote location and the control functions can be actuated by a radio or telephone link.
- Repeaters are automatically operated so the control point and control operator are located at the transmitting station.



# Guest Operations

Guests can transmit at a station but only when a control operator is present. The guest operator can be unlicensed or licensed.

- If the guest operator is unlicensed, the control operator is solely responsible for station operation.
- If the guest operator is licensed, both the control operator and the guest ham are responsible for station operation.
- A guest who is acting as control operator may exceed the privileges of the station licensee if the control operator's call sign is used to identify the station:
  - “KK6AAA/AA6AA”



# Station Identification (ID)

Transmissions must be identified by a call sign. Unidentified transmissions are not allowed. The easiest way to identify is to say (or send) your call sign.

- Say your call sign at least once every ten minutes during a contact and at the end of the contact.
- Tactical Call Signs may be used but the operator's call sign must given during the communication.
- Indicators for portable or mobile operation may be used with a slash or the words “portable” or “slash” or “stroke”.
  - “KK6AAA portable 7” or “W7/KK6AAA”
  - “KK6AAA stroke AG”



# Miscellaneous ID Rules

Radio control (RC) doesn't require ID.

Signals re-transmitted by space stations do not include call sign of the space station.

Test transmissions must follow ID rules. Say "Testing" and your call sign.

Repeaters under automatic control must follow the 10 minute rule. The ID can be voice or CW (at 20 WPM or less).

Satellites and ISS have special rules.

Special event stations have event call signs but the normal club call or control operator call sign must also be given once per hour.



# Third-Party Communications

Third-party means that a non-ham is involved in communication via ham radio. The third-party is the non-ham.

- A non-ham speaking on the air.
- Passing a message on behalf of a non-ham.

Two situations – different rules.

- Within the US.
- Communications that cross international borders.



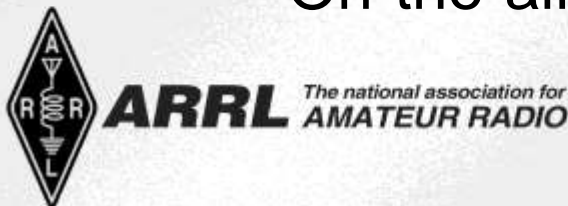
# Third-Party within US

Third-Party messages may be exchanged between any amateur stations operating under FCC Rules provided that the messages are:

- Non-Commercial and,
- Of a personal nature

Third-party messages are on behalf of a third-party and might be:

- Written messages
- Relaying spoken requests or greetings
- Phone patches
- On-the-air conversations





# Third-Party Across Borders

International third-party communications are restricted to those countries that specifically allow third-party communications with U.S. amateurs. Make sure that a third-party agreement exists.

- Check for current third-party agreements from ARRL Web site or FCC sources if in doubt.
- You might be surprised at the countries that we do not have third-party agreements with.

During station identification say both stations' call signs.

