



Technician License Course

Chapter 7

Lesson Module 15:

Licensing Regulations: Terms &
Working with the FCC



ARRL *The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO*

Licensing Authority

The licensing authority for radio services in the USA is the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The rules for operations for all services are contained in Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations – 47USCFR.

- Amateur Radio operation is covered by FCC rules published in Part 97 of Title 47 – Use Part 97 for short.
- Unlicensed radio services are covered by Part 15.
- CB Radio is covered by Part 95.



Reasons for Amateur Radio Service

FCC Part 97.1 lists reasons for establishing an Amateur Radio Service.

- Providing emergency communication capability.
- Advancement of the art and science of radio.
- Advance communication and technical skills of radio.
- Provide a trained reservoir of operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- Promote and enhance international goodwill.



Definition of Amateur Service

From Part 97.3(a)(4) – An Amateur Service is

- A radiocommunication service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication, and technical investigations,
- Carried out by amateurs – duly authorized persons interested in radio technique,
- solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.

Personal aim means not business related.

Pecuniary means “money or payment”.



Definition of Amateur Operator

From Part 97.3(a)(1) – An Amateur Operator is

- A person named in an amateur operator/primary license station grant
- on the ULS consolidated license database
- to be the control operator of an amateur station.



Definition of Amateur Station

From Part 97.3(a)(5) – An Amateur Station is

- A station in an amateur radio service,
- Consisting of the apparatus necessary,
- For carrying on radiocommunications.



The Amateur License

Licenses are issued by FCC to legal residents of USA.

- No age limit or citizenship restrictions.
- One exception – can't be a representative of a foreign government.

License actually contains two parts.

- Operator License.
- Station License (the Call Sign).

There are three levels of licenses.



The Three Levels of Amateur Licenses

Technician Class – VHF and up; Limited HF

- Pass Element 2, 35 questions, 26 correct

General Class – HF and up; Some restrictions in HF

- Pass Element 2
- Pass Element 3, 35 questions, 26 correct.

Amateur Extra Class – All Amateur privileges

- Pass Element 2
- Pass Element 3
- Pass Element 4, 50 questions, 37 correct.

Novice Class and Advanced Class are “grandfathered” but no longer issued.



Examinations

Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) qualify and supervise Voluntary Examiners.

Volunteer Examiners (VEs) administer examinations.

- Proctored exam.
- Multiple choice.
- Fees.

Some personal identification information is required.

- Tax ID (Social Security number).
- Current Mailing Address.
- Federal Registration Number (FRN).



Applying for a License

After passing the required exam elements, you apply to the FCC for the license. The VE will help with preparing the application.

- The license is free.
- When a license is issued, it will appear in the ULS database along with a call sign.
- After you receive a license and a call sign, a “vanity” call sign may be requested for a fee.



The Amateur Radio License

The VE will help you apply for a license after you pass the exam.

- You receive a CSCE – Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination.
- CSCE is good for 365 days.
- You fill out Form 605 which is submitted to FCC.
- You are licensed when your information shows up in the FCC database
- The license which is mailed is good for 10 years.



Renewing the License

Licenses may be renewed at the end of the 10 year term indefinitely. They can be renewed online on the FCC ULS within 90 days of expiration.

- Can be renewed with Form 605 up to 90 days before expiration.
- If not renewed, license expires and you must stop transmitting.
- You have a 2 year grace period to renew without taking an exam.
- You can obtain a copy of a destroyed license.



Responsibilities of the Licensee

Prevent unauthorized operation of your station.

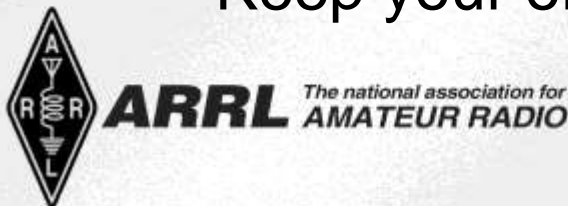
- Lock up the equipment or disable the transmitter.
- Unlicensed people may not transmit without a control operator.

Provide personal information as required – keep a current mailing address on file.

- Mailing address does not have to be the station address.

Make your station available for FCC inspection upon request.

- Keep your original license available.



FCC ULS Web Site

The FCC database may be accessed at:

www.wireless.fcc.gov/uls

- Register for on-line access to your license information. Obtain a Federal Registration Number – FRN.
- Make changes to your address and other information.
- Renew your license.
- Search for other station information.

