



# Technician License Course

## Chapter 7

Lesson Module 15:

Licensing Regulations: Terms &  
Working with the FCC



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# 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 – Referred to as “**Part 97**”.
- 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:

- Citizens and legal residents of USA of any age who are not a representative of a foreign government.

Two parts of License:

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

Three levels of licenses:

- Technician
- General
- Amateur Extra

Valid for 10 years and may be renewed.



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# Classes of Amateur Licenses

Technician Class – VHF and up; Limited HF

- Pass Exam Element 2 – 35 questions, 26 correct

General Class – HF and up; Some restrictions in HF

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

Amateur Extra Class – All Amateur privileges

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

Credit is given for previously passing an Exam Element.





# Examinations

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

Volunteer Examiners (VEs) administer examinations.

- Proctored exam.
- Multiple choice questions from current pool.
- Fee to cover VE expenses.
- Need three VEs to conduct exam.

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.

- 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.
- When a license is issued, it will appear in the ULS database along with a call sign.
- You may operate your station as soon as the license appears in ULS.



# 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.
- A licensee may apply for a “vanity” call sign for a fee.





# 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** present.

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.



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# FCC ULS Web Site

The FCC database may be accessed at:

[www.wireless.fcc.gov/uls](http://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.

