

Happenings

Conducted by Carol L Smith, AJ2I

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MOST LOGGING ELIMINATED

On June 9, 1983, logging requirements for the Amateur Radio Service were virtually eliminated. The Report and Order in PR Docket 82-726 did, however, retain certain technical and documentary mandates for stations in repeater, remote control and auxiliary operation. (See December 1982 QST, p.69, and March 1983, QST, pp. 58-59, for background information.)

The FCC concluded in the Report and Order that most station log requirements were no longer useful or necessary. "Various aspects of routine station operation were intended to provide the Commission with a means to verify when a station was in operation and whether communications from the station were of a permissible nature," it said. "We [the FCC] have rarely used information from the log, preferring to rely instead on monitoring data we have collected."

Changes in this Report and Order include:

- most amateur stations will no longer need to maintain logs. For example, tape recording of third-party transmissions on repeaters is no longer necessary. In fact, third-party traffic record-keeping functions are no longer maintained for U.S. Amateurs

- records that must still be maintained may be kept in any form that can be made readily available to the Commission;
- stations in repeater, auxiliary and remote-control operation must still maintain certain technical and functional records;
- FCC Engineers-in-Charge now have the power to require individual licensees to maintain station logs on a case-by-case basis;
- the licensee of a station is assumed to be the control operator unless documentation exists to the contrary.

Though the majority of commenters favored the Commission's proposal to eliminate logging (many purported that repeater logging, especially third-party traffic, was a burden), others pointed out the advantages of keeping a station log. The Commission noted, however, that licensees are always free to keep records of whatever information they find of value. Station logs will, of course, continue to be important as a station record, aiding in research and development, and resolving RFI/TVI complaints. The FCC is also relying heavily on amateur self-regulation to eliminate unintentional violations of international treaty requirements (especially third-party traffic regulations.)

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Exact changes in Part 97 of the Rules include:

1. §98.79. Control operator requirements.

(b) Every amateur radio station, when in operation, shall have a control operator. The control operator shall be present at a control point of the station, except when the station is operated under automatic control. (Automatic control is only permitted where specifically authorized by the rules of this part.) The control operator may be the station licensee, if a licensed amateur radio operator, or may be another amateur radio operator with the required class of license and designated by the station licensee. The control operator shall also be responsible, together with the station licensee, for the proper operation of the station. (For purposes of enforcement of the rules of this part, the FCC will presume that the station licensee is, at all times, the control operator of the station, unless documentation exists to the contrary.)

2. §97.85 Repeater operation.

(g) Each station in repeater operation transmitting with an effective radiated power greater than 100 watts on frequencies between 29.5 and 420 MHz, or 400 watts on frequencies between 420 and 1215 MHz, shall have the following information included in the station records during any period of operation:

- (1) The location of the station transmitting antenna marked upon a topographic map having contour intervals and having a scale of 1:250,000 (indexes and ordering information for suitable maps are available from the U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, DC 20242, or from the Federal Center, Denver, CO 80255);
- (2) The transmitting antenna height above average terrain (see Appendix 5);
- (3) The effective radiated power in the horizontal plane for the main lobe of antenna pattern, calculated for the maximum transmitter output power which occurs during operation;
- (4) The maximum output power which occurs during the operations;
- (5) The loss in the transmission line between the

transmitter and the antenna (including devices such as duplexers, cavities or circulators), expressed in decibels; and

- (6) The relative gain in the horizontal plane of the transmitting antenna.

3. In Section §97.88, paragraph (a) is revised, paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) are removed, and new paragraphs (f) and (g) are added to read as follows:

§97.88 Operation of a station by remote control

(a) A photocopy of the license for the remotely controlled station shall be posted in a conspicuous place at the station location.

(f) The station records shall include during any period of operation;

(1) The names, addresses and call signs of all persons authorized by the station licensee to be control operators; and

(2) A functional block diagram of the control link and a technical explanation sufficient to describe its operation.

(g) Each remotely controlled station shall be protected against unauthorized station operation, whether caused by activation of the control link, or otherwise.

4. §97.90 System network diagram required.

When a station has one or more associated stations, that is, stations in repeater or auxiliary operation, a system network diagram (see §97.3(v)) shall be included in the station records during any period of operation.

5. Section §97.92 is added to read as follows:

§97.92 Record of operations

When deemed necessary by the Engineer-in-Charge (EIC) of a Commission field facility to assure compliance with the rules of this part, a station licensee shall maintain a record of station operations containing such items of information as the EIC may require under Section 0.314(x).