

PERMISSIBLE COMMUNICATIONS IN THE CITIZENS RADIO SERVICE

Your attention is called to Part 19, Citizens Radio Service, of the Commission's Rules regarding the type of communications that are permitted by licensees of Citizens Radio stations. Sections 19.1, 19.2(a), and 19.61 of these Rules clearly indicate that the Citizens Radio Service is for *PRIVATE SHORT-DISTANCE RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN UNITS OF THE SAME STATION OR OTHER STATIONS LICENSED IN THIS SERVICE, LIMITED TO THE MINIMUM PRACTICABLE TRANSMISSION TIME.*

The information required by Item 9 of FCC Form 505 must show *specifically* in connection with what business or other activity radio is to be used and the purpose and manner of such use. It must be remembered that stations in this service are licensed to fulfill a *definite need for communications in connection with business or personal activities.*

The Commission's monitoring stations are continuing to detect violations of the Citizens Radio Service Rules and are issuing large numbers of citations to licensees. The violations cited fall mainly into two large groups -- off-frequency operation and the use of Citizens Radio Service stations for communications which are not permissible under the rules.

PERMISSIBLE COMMUNICATIONS: Most citations for improper use result from the mistaken belief that the Citizens Radio Service (particularly the Class D station) is similar to the Amateur Radio Service with respect to permissible communications and that certain amateur-type communications (such as calling CQ, contacting distant stations for the sole purpose of talking to someone that far away, transmitting merely for the amusement of the operator, radio experimentation and on-the-air discussions of radio equipment, etc.) are permitted. *Nothing is further from the truth.* Class A, Class B, and Class D stations are authorized *to communicate primarily with other units of the same station*, and secondarily with units of other stations in the Citizens Radio Service *only* when *necessary* for the exchange of *substantive* messages related to the business or personal activities of *both* the licensees concerned. Paragraph (c) of Section 19.61 states, with certain minor exceptions, that "...no station in this service shall be used for the transmission of any communication or signal other than those concerning the business activities or personal affairs of the licensee...". Accordingly, except in emergencies, a licensee may not normally use his station to transmit messages for other persons (not even routine messages for his employer) regardless of whether or not any compensation is received for such use.

The Citizens Radio Service was set up by the Commission on a regular basis in 1947. At that time frequencies were made available only in the 460-470 Mc band. Later, one other frequency, 27.255 Mc, was made available for control (not communications) purposes only. In September 1958, two new groups of frequencies (one group for control purposes and the other for voice communications) were made available. However, control stations are licensed as "Class C" and voice stations as "Class D". No changes were made in the scope of permissible communications.

(Over)

The new frequencies were set up in a band formerly assigned to the Amateur Radio Service in the 27 Mc region. For this reason it seems likely that the former association of these frequencies with the Amateur Radio Service is partly responsible for the misunderstandings regarding the use of Class D stations. However, persons desiring to pursue radiocommunication as a hobby should refer to Part 12 of the Commission's Rules and should apply for a license in the Amateur Radio Service.

Licensees should remember that:

The Citizens Radio Service was set up to provide for the radiocommunication *needs* of the citizens of the United States much on the same basis as a party-line telephone, and Citizens Radio stations must be used with the same consideration for other users.

Emergency communications have priority.

The Amateur Radio Service is available to all citizens of the United States who are interested enough to qualify themselves -- and the knowledge and code skills required to obtain a Novice Class "ham" license are easily acquired.

Citizens Radio, properly used, is a valuable communications tool for the professional man (such as the doctor and the engineer), the small businessman, and the plain citizen. Improperly used, it can be made worthless to everyone because of excessive interference.

Continued violations of the rules will result in license revocation and loss of all operating privileges.

DON'T PUT YOUR CITIZENS RADIO TRANSMITTER ON THE AIR UNLESS YOU HAVE A MESSAGE WHICH YOU *NEED* TO SEND.

It is the licensee's responsibility to see that his equipment is at all times operating in accordance with the Citizens Radio Service Rules. Off-frequency operation can be guarded against by having measurements made by a service engineer or other person who has the proper frequency-measuring equipment and the skill required to use it. How often this need be done depends upon the equipment used. Some equipment may require daily checks, whereas more stable equipment may not require frequency checks for periods as long as six months.

DON'T TAMPER WITH THE EQUIPMENT. A licensed commercial operator of an appropriate class is required for any adjustments that might affect the proper operation of the station. (See Section 19.71).

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