

Technician License Course

Chapters 7 and 8

Lesson Module 16 –

Call Signs, Control Operators,
Station Identification and
Third-Party Communications



ARRL *The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO*

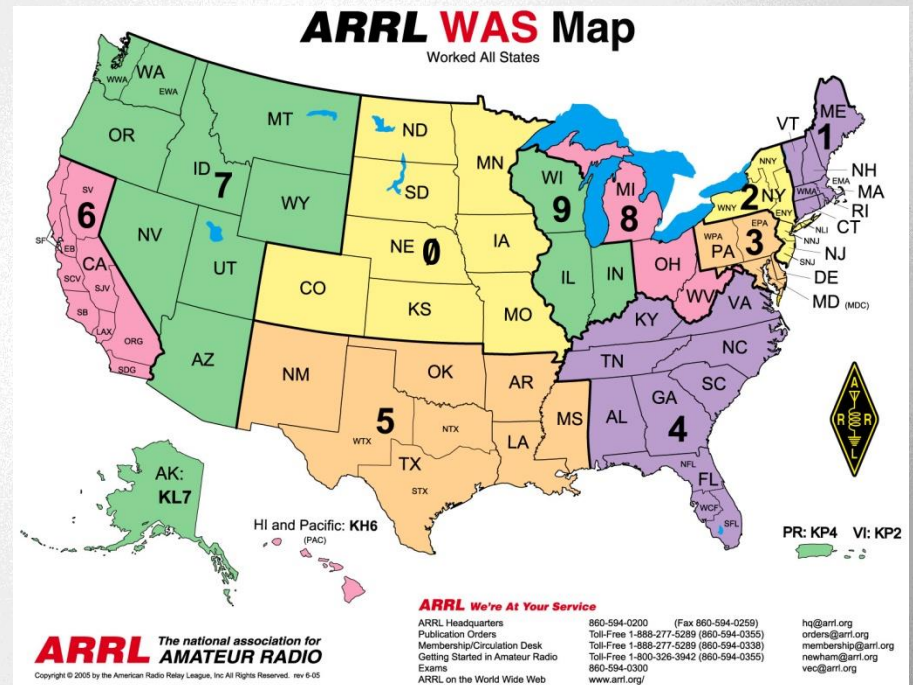
Call Signs – Your “Radio Name”

- All amateur call signs have a prefix and a suffix
 - Prefix – indicates country of license
 - Suffix – indicates a specific licensee
- Prefix – generally two or three letters and numbers assigned by the ITU
- Suffix – one or more letters



Call Signs

- US call signs begin with: K, N, W, and AA–AL
- Ten US call sign districts indicated by 0–9 in prefix
- Pacific and Caribbean possessions have special prefixes



Call Signs

- U.S. call sign types for amateurs
 - 1x1 (W1W); 1x2 (W1WW); 2x1 (WW1W); 2x2 (WW1WW); 1x3 (W1WWW); or 2x3 (WW1WWW)
- 1x1 (“one by one”) is for special events
- Remaining types are Group A through D
 - Assigned by license class

Call Signs

- Indicators – added to the call sign following a slash (/) or a word such as “portable”
- Portable – operating away from primary station location
- Mobile, aeronautical mobile, maritime mobile
- Upgrade indicators “AG” or “AE” or “KT”

Choosing Your Call Sign

- Vanity call signs – similar to vanity license plates
- Pick any call sign authorized for your license class
 - Technicians can have 2x3 (Group D) or 1x3 (Group C) calls
- www.arrl.org/vanity-call-signs



Special Event and Club Calls

- Special event call signs: 1x1
- Reserved via administrators
(www.arrl.org/special-event-call-signs)
- Club calls
 - Must have a valid club
 - Application by club's trustee
 - www.arrl.org/club-call-signs



Control Operator

- Control operator – the amateur licensee responsible for making sure transmissions comply with FCC rules.
- The FCC requires that transmissions are made only under the control of a licensed operator.

Control Operator

- Designated by the station licensee.
 - Must have a valid FCC-issued Amateur Radio license or have reciprocal operating permission.
 - Station must operate within the authorization of the control operator's license.
 - Control operator must be present at the control point of the station
 - Assumed to be the station licensee unless otherwise documented.



Control Point

- Wherever the station controls are operated – not necessarily the physical transmitter
- The control operator must be able to assert control of the transmitter
- Control point can be at the transmitter, or linked to the transmitter
- Control by a circuit or computer is also allowed

Guest Operations

- Non-licensed people can make transmissions but only when a control operator is present.
 - The control operator is solely responsible for station operation.
- For licensed guest operators, both the control operator and the guest ham are responsible for station operation.

Station Identification (ID)

- All transmissions *must* be identified
 - State the call sign every 10 minutes during and at the end of the communication
 - Use phonetics on voice modes
- Use of “Tactical Calls”
- Licensed Guests

Miscellaneous ID Rules

- Repeaters must also ID using the same 10 minute rule.
 - Can be voice or CW (at 20 WPM or less).
- Satellites and ISS have special rules.
- Special event calls.
 - Club call or control operator call given once per hour.

Third-Party Communications

- *Third-party communication* – transmissions on behalf of an unlicensed entity
 - Could mean actually speaking on the air
 - Could mean passing a message on behalf of third party
- Two situations – different rules
 - Within the US
 - Communication that crosses international borders

Third-Party within US

- No special rules.
- Just make sure the message is non-commercial in nature.

Third-Party Across Borders

- Third-party agreement with US must exist
 - Check for current third-party agreements from ARRL website or FCC sources if in doubt
 - Most agreements are within ITU Region II
 - This includes contest operation
- Identify with both stations' call signs

Practice Questions



Which type of call sign has a single letter in both the prefix and suffix?

- A. Vanity
- B. Sequential
- C. Special event
- D. In-memoriam

FCC Rule: [97.3(a)(11)(iii)] T1C01 HRLM (7-22)



Which type of call sign has a single letter in both the prefix and suffix?

- A. Vanity
- B. Sequential
- C. Special event**
- D. In-memoriam

FCC Rule: [97.3(a)(11)(iii)] T1C01 HRLM (7-22)



Which of the following is a valid US amateur radio station call sign?

- A. KMA3505
- B. W3ABC
- C. KDKA
- D. 11Q1176

T1C02 HRLM (7-20)



Which of the following is a valid US amateur radio station call sign?

- A. KMA3505
- B. W3ABC**
- C. KDKA
- D. 11Q1176

T1C02 HRLM (7-20)



Which of the following is a vanity call sign which a technician class amateur operator might select if available?

- A. K1XXX
- B. KA1X
- C. W1XX
- D. All of these choices are correct

T1C05 HRLM (7-22)



Which of the following is a vanity call sign which a technician class amateur operator might select if available?

- A. K1XXX
- B. KA1X
- C. W1XX
- D. All of these choices are correct

T1C05 HRLM (7-22)



Who may select a desired call sign under the vanity call sign rules?

- A. Only licensed amateurs with General or Extra Class licenses
- B. Only licensed amateurs with an Extra Class license
- C. Only an amateur licensee who has been licensed continuously for more than 10 years
- D. Any licensed amateur

FCC Rule: [97.19] T1C12 HRLM (1)



Who may select a desired call sign under the vanity call sign rules?

- A. Only licensed amateurs with General or Extra Class licenses
- B. Only licensed amateurs with an Extra Class license
- C. Only an amateur licensee who has been licensed continuously for more than 10 years
- D. Any licensed amateur**

FCC Rule: [97.19] T1C12 HRLM (1)



Who may select a vanity call sign for a club station?

- A. Any Extra Class member of the club
- B. Any member of the club
- C. Any officer of the club
- D. Only the person named as trustee on the club station license grant

FCC Rule: [97.21(a) (1)] T1C14 HRLM (7-22)



Who may select a vanity call sign for a club station?

- A. Any Extra Class member of the club
- B. Any member of the club
- C. Any officer of the club
- D. Only the person named as trustee on the club station license grant**

FCC Rule: [97.21(a) (1)] T1C14 HRLM (7-22)



When may an amateur station make transmissions without identifying?

- A. When the transmissions are of a brief nature to make station adjustments
- B. When the transmission are unmodulated
- C. When the transmitted power level is below 1 watt
- D. Never

FCC Rule: [97.119(a), 97.215(a)] T1D11 HRLM (8-3)



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FCC Rule: [97.119(a), 97.215(a)] T1D11 HRLM (8-3)



When is an amateur station permitted to transmit without a control operator?

- A. When using automatic control, such as in the case of a repeater
- B. When the station licensee is away and another licensed amateur is using the station
- C. When the transmitting station is an auxiliary station
- D. Never

FCC Rule: [97.7] T1E01 HRLM (8-1)



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- B. When the station licensee is away and another licensed amateur is using the station
- C. When the transmitting station is an auxiliary station
- D. Never**

FCC Rule: [97.7] T1E01 HRLM (8-1)



Who is eligible to be the control operator of an amateur station?

- A. Any U.S. citizen designated by the station licensee
- B. Any U.S. citizen designated by the station licensee
- C. Any person over the age of 18 designated by the station licensee
- D. Only a person for whom an amateur operator/primary station license grant appears in the FCC database or who is authorized for alien reciprocal operation

FCC Rule: [97.7(a,b)] T1E02 HRLM (8-2)



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FCC Rule: [97.7(a,b)] T1E02 HRLM (8-2)



Who must designate the station control operator?

- A. The station licensee
- B. The FCC
- C. The frequency coordinator
- D. The ITU

FCC Rule: [97.103(b)] T1E03 HRLM (8-1)



Who must designate the station control operator?

- A. The station licensee**
- B. The FCC
- C. The frequency coordinator
- D. The ITU

FCC Rule: [97.103(b)] T1E03 HRLM (8-1)



What determines the transmitting privileges of an amateur station?

- A. The frequency authorized by the frequency coordinator
- B. The class of operator license held by the station licensee
- C. The highest class of operator license held by anyone on the premises
- D. The class of operator license held by the control operator

FCC Rule: [97.105(b)] T1E04 HRLM (8-2)



What determines the transmitting privileges of an amateur station?

- A. The frequency authorized by the frequency coordinator
- B. The class of operator license held by the station licensee
- C. The highest class of operator license held by anyone on the premises
- D. The class of operator license held by the control operator**

FCC Rule: [97.105(b)] T1E04 HRLM (8-2)



What is an amateur station control point?

- A. The location of the station's transmitting antenna
- B. The location of the station transmitting apparatus
- C. The location at which the control operator function is performed
- D. The mailing address of the station licensee

FCC Rule: [97.3(a)(14)] T1E05 HRLM (8-2)



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- A. The location of the station's transmitting antenna
- B. The location of the station transmitting apparatus
- C. The location at which the control operator function is performed**
- D. The mailing address of the station licensee

FCC Rule: [97.3(a)(14)] T1E05 HRLM (8-2)



When the control operator is not the station licensee, who is responsible for the proper operation of the station?

- A. All licensed amateurs who are present at the operation
- B. Only the station licensee
- C. Only the control operator
- D. The control operator and the station licensee are equally responsible

FCC Rule: [97.103(a)] T1E07 HRLM (8-2)



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- B. Only the station licensee
- C. Only the control operator
- D. The control operator and the station licensee are equally responsible**

FCC Rule: [97.103(a)] T1E07 HRLM (8-2)



Who does the FCC presume to be the control operator of an amateur station, unless documentation to the contrary is in the station records?

- A. The station custodian
- B. The third party participant
- C. The person operating the station equipment
- D. The station licensee

FCC Rule: [97.103(a)] T1E11 HRLM (8-2)



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FCC Rule: [97.103(a)] T1E11 HRLM (8-2)



When, under normal circumstances, may a Technician Class licensee be the control operator of a station operating in an exclusive Extra Class operator segment of the amateur bands?

- A. At no time
- B. When operating a special event station
- C. As part of a multi-operator contest team
- D. When using a club station whose trustee is an Extra Class operator licensee

FCC Rule: [97.119(e)] T1E12 HRLM (8-2)



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- A. At no time**
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- D. When using a club station whose trustee is an Extra Class operator licensee

FCC Rule: [97.119(e)] T1E12 HRLM (8-2)



What type of identification is being used when identifying a station on the air as Race Headquarters?

- A. Tactical call
- B. An official call sign reserved for RACES drills
- C. SSID
- D. Broadcast station

T1F01 HRLM (8-4)



What type of identification is being used when identifying a station on the air as Race Headquarters?

- A. Tactical call
- B. An official call sign reserved for RACES drills
- C. SSID
- D. Broadcast station

T1F01 HRLM (8-4)



When using tactical identifiers such as “Race Headquarters” during a community service net operation, how often must your station transmit the station’s FCC-assigned call sign?

- A. Never, the tactical call is sufficient
- B. Once during every hour
- C. At the end of each communication and every ten minutes during a communication
- D. At the end of every transmission

FCC Rule: [97.119 (a)] T1F02 HRLM (8-4)



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- B. Once during every hour
- C. At the end of each communication and every ten minutes during a communication**
- D. At the end of every transmission

FCC Rule: [97.119 (a)] T1F02 HRLM (8-4)



When is an amateur station required to transmit its assigned call sign?

- A. At the beginning of each contact, and every 10 minutes thereafter
- B. At least once during each transmission
- C. At least every 15 minutes during and at the end of a communication
- D. At least every 10 minutes during and at the end of a communication

FCC Rule: [97.119(a)] T1F03 HRLM (8-3)



When is an amateur station required to transmit its assigned call sign?

- A. At the beginning of each contact, and every 10 minutes thereafter
- B. At least once during each transmission
- C. At least every 15 minutes during and at the end of a communication
- D. At least every 10 minutes during and at the end of a communication**

FCC Rule: [97.119(a)] T1F03 HRLM (8-3)



Which of the following is an acceptable language to use for station identification when operating in a phone sub-band?

- A. Any language recognized by the United Nations
- B. Any language recognized by the ITU
- C. The English language
- D. English, French, or Spanish

FCC Rule: [97.119(b)(2)] T1F04 HRLM (8-4)



Which of the following is an acceptable language to use for station identification when operating in a phone sub-band?

- A. Any language recognized by the United Nations
- B. Any language recognized by the ITU
- C. The English language**
- D. English, French, or Spanish

FCC Rule: [97.119(b)(2)] T1F04 HRLM (8-4)



What method of call sign identification is required for a station transmitting phone signals?

- A. Send the call sign followed by the indicator RPT
- B. Send the call sign using CW or phone emission
- C. Send the call sign followed by the indicator R
- D. Send the call sign using only phone emission

FCC Rule: [97.119(b)(2)] T1F05 HRLM (8-4)



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FCC Rule: [97.119(b)(2)] T1F05 HRLM (8-4)



Which of the following formats of a self-assigned indicator is acceptable when identifying using a phone transmission?

- A. KL7CC stroke W3
- B. KL7CC slant W3
- C. KL7CC slash W3
- D. All of these choices are correct

FCC Rule: [97.119(c)] T1F06 HRLM (8-4)



Which of the following formats of a self-assigned indicator is acceptable when identifying using a phone transmission?

A. KL7CC stroke W3

B. KL7CC slant W3

C. KL7CC slash W3

D. All of these choices are correct

FCC Rule: [97.119(c)] T1F06 HRLM (8-4)



Which of the following restrictions apply when a non-licensed person is allowed to use a station under the control of a Technician Class control operator to speak to a foreign station?

- A. The person must be a U.S. citizen
- B. The foreign station must be one with whom the U.S. has a “third party agreement”
- C. The licensed control operator must do the station identification
- D. All of these choices are correct

FCC Rule: [97.115(a)(2)] T1F07 HRLM (8-10)



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- B. The foreign station must be one with whom the U.S. has a “third party agreement”**
- C. The licensed control operator must do the station identification
- D. All of these choices are correct

FCC Rule: [97.115(a)(2)] T1F07 HRLM (8-10)



Which indicator is required by the FCC to be transmitted after a station call sign?

- A. /M when operating mobile
- B. /R when operating a repeater
- C. / followed the FCC Region number when operating out of the region in which the license was issued
- D. /KT, /AE or /AG when using new license privileges earned by CSCE while waiting for an upgrade to a previously issued license to appear in the ULS database

FCC Rule: [97.119 (f)] T1F08 HRLM (8-5)



Which indicator is required by the FCC to be transmitted after a station call sign?

- A. /M when operating mobile
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FCC Rule: [97.119 (f)] T1F08 HRLM (8-5)



To which foreign stations do the FCC rules authorize the transmission of non-emergency third party communications?

- A. Any station whose government permits such communications
- B. Those in ITU Region 2 only
- C. Those in ITU Regions 2 and 3 only
- D. Those in ITU Region 3 only

FCC Rule: [97.115(a)] T1F11 HRLM (8-9)



To which foreign stations do the FCC rules authorize the transmission of non-emergency third party communications?

- A. Any station whose government permits such communications**
- B. Those in ITU Region 2 only
- C. Those in ITU Regions 2 and 3 only
- D. Those in ITU Region 3 only

FCC Rule: [97.115(a)] T1F11 HRLM (8-9)



How many persons are required to be members of a club for a club station license to be issued by the FCC?

- A. At least 5
- B. At least 4
- C. A trustee and 2 officers
- D. At least 2

FCC Rule: [97.5(b)(2)] T1F12 HRLM (7-22)



How many persons are required to be members of a club for a club station license to be issued by the FCC?

- A. At least 5
- B. At least 4**
- C. A trustee and 2 officers
- D. At least 2

FCC Rule: [97.5(b)(2)] T1F12 HRLM (7-22)



What must an amateur operator do when making on-air transmissions to test equipment or antennas?

- A. Properly identify the transmitting station
- B. Make test transmissions only after 10:00 p.m. local time
- C. Notify the FCC of the test transmission
- D. State the purpose of the test during the test procedure

T2A06 HRLM (8-6)



What must an amateur operator do when making on-air transmissions to test equipment or antennas?

- A. Properly identify the transmitting station**
- B. Make test transmissions only after 10:00 p.m. local time
- C. Notify the FCC of the test transmission
- D. State the purpose of the test during the test procedure

T2A06 HRLM (8-6)



Which of the following is true when making a test transmission into an antenna?

- A. Station identification is not required if the transmission is less than 15 seconds
- B. Station identification is not required if the transmission is less than 1 watt
- C. Station identification is only required once an hour when the transmissions are for test purposes only
- D. Station identification is required at least every ten minutes during the test and at the end of the test

T2A07 HRLM (8-6)



Which of the following is true when making a test transmission into an antenna?

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- D. Station identification is required at least every ten minutes during the test and at the end of the test**

T2A07 HRLM (8-6)

Which of the following methods is encouraged by the FCC when identifying your station when using phone?

- A. Use of a phonetic alphabet
- B. Send your call sign in CW as well as voice
- C. Repeat your call sign three times
- D. Increase your signal to full power when identifying

FCC Rule: [97.119(b)(2)] T2B09 HRLM (8-4)



Which of the following methods is encouraged by the FCC when identifying your station when using phone?

- A. Use of a phonetic alphabet**
- B. Send your call sign in CW as well as voice
- C. Repeat your call sign three times
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FCC Rule: [97.119(b)(2)] T2B09 HRLM (8-4)

