



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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PERMITTED FORMS OF LOW POWER BROADCAST OPERATION

The Commission often receives inquiries regarding low power broadcasting. There are two basic types of low power broadcast operation permitted - licensed and unlicensed. The following tables describe the basic criteria for both. It is important to note that the forms of broadcast operation listed on these tables are the only ones permitted. Operation of an AM or FM radio station at a power level greater than that permitted for unlicensed operation and less than the minimum required for licensed operation is NOT permitted.

The equipment used in a broadcast operation (licensed or unlicensed) is subject to the equipment authorization requirements listed in Parts 15, 73, and 74.

Unlicensed Operation (See Part 15 of FCC rules for details.)

	AM	FM	TV
Maximum Effective Radiated Power	0.05 watts (Rule actually specifies 100 mW to the final RF stage, and permits unlimited power on a college or university campus as long as the field strength does not exceed 24000/F(kHz) uV/meter at 30 meters outside of the campus perimeter.)	0.01 microwatts (Rule actually specifies a limit of 250 uV/meter measured at 3 meters.)	THE FCC RULES DO NOT PERMIT ANY UNLICENSED BROADCAST OPERATION IN THE TELEVISION BROADCAST BANDS.
Approx. Maximum Coverage Radius	200 feet	200 feet	
Restrictions on Operation	There are no restrictions on the content or hours of operation for unlicensed stations operating under Part 15.		

As you can see there is no difference in distance that the FCC allows for unlicensed AM and FM transmitters.

Licensed Operation (See Parts 73 and 74 of FCC rules for details.)

	AM	FM	FM BOOSTERS & TRANSLATORS	TV	TV TRANSLATORS & LOW POWER TV
Effective Radiated Power Limits	250 watts <u>MINIMUM</u>	100 watts <u>MINIMUM</u>	<u>MAXIMUM</u> of 250 watts (translators) or 20% prim. power (boosters)	100 watts <u>MINIMUM</u>	<u>MAXIMUM</u> of 10 watts VHF output power <u>MAXIMUM</u> of 1000 W UHF output power
Approximate MINIMUM Coverage Area (radius)	25 miles	4 miles	n/a	4 miles	n/a
Minimum Hours of Operation for Commercial Stations	2/3 of total hrs. they're authorized to operate between 6A & 6P and 2/3 of total hrs they are authorized to operate between 6P & midnight	2/3 of total hrs. they're authorized to operate between 6A & 6P and 2/3 of total hrs they are authorized to operate between 6P & midnight	None, for commercial, non-comm. and stations licensed to educational institutions but licensee is expected to provide dependable service to the extent possible.	2 hours each day of the week and not less than a total of 28 hours per calendar week	None, for commercial, non-comm. and stations licensed to educational institutions but licensee is expected to provide dependable service to the extent possible.
Minimum Hours of Operation for Noncommercial Stations	None, but hours of actual operation are taken into account in renewal applications	36 hours per week consisting of at least 5 hours per day for at least 6 days of the week	<u>*IMPORTANT*</u> It is not permissible to use translators or boosters to transmit original program material. They may only be used to enhance the signals of licensed stations.	None, but hours of actual operation are taken into account in renewal applications	<u>*IMPORTANT*</u> It is not permissible to use translators or boosters to transmit original program material. They may only be used to enhance the signals of licensed stations.
Minimum Hours of Operation for Stations Licensed to an educational Institution	None, but hours of actual operation are taken into account in renewal applications	36 hours/wk consisting of at least 5 hours per day Mon-Fri, except on official school holidays	original program material. They may only be used to enhance the signals of licensed stations.	None, but hours of actual operation are taken into account in renewal applications	original program material. They may only be used to enhance the signals of licensed stations.

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING:

PLEASE CONTACT THE:

AT:

AM Licensed Operation
 FM Licensed Operation
 FM Translator/Booster Operation
 TV Licensed Operation
 Low Power TV/TV Translator Operation
 Unlicensed Broadcast Operation

AM Branch (202) 418-2660
 FM Branch (202) 418-2710 or 418-2720
 Auxiliary Services Branch (202) 418-1690
 TV Branch (202) 418-1630
 LPTV Branch (202) 418-1640
 Technical Standards Branch (202) 653-7313