

whether it's his or her home station or a station owned by another amateur. When the control operator of a station is someone other than the station licensee, both are equally responsible for the proper operation of the station [97.103(a)].

Unless there is documentation to the contrary, the FCC will assume that the station licensee is the control operator. All amateurs must make the station and the station records available to the FCC for inspection upon request [97.103(c)]. The FCC may require amateurs to keep records of station operations if deemed necessary to comply with FCC rules. Keeping

such records is required only if you are specifically asked by the FCC, but we are all required to follow all FCC rules at all times [97.103(c)].

Some amateurs are under the impression that the operator of a club station license has all of the privileges granted to the club station trustee, but that is not necessarily the case. The station trustee and the control operator are responsible for the station's operation [97.103(a)]. The control operator may operate the station only up to the privileges of his or her own operator license [97.105(b)]. If the privileges in use exceed those of the station trustee's, however, the station ID must consist of the club station's call sign

Q&A—Who's in Control of Your Station?

Q. My call is being used for Field Day, but I can't be at the station for the duration of the operating event. I like sleeping in my air conditioned house, even during Field Day. Do we have to take the transmitter off the air when I am not present?

A. No, because your appointed control operator(s) should fulfill your duties as the station licensee. In fact, you don't have to be there at all, but you must make sure that your appointed control operator(s) is capable of carrying out your wishes [97.103(b) and 97.105].

Q. Can KA1UFZ, a Novice, operate the station of NU0X, an Amateur Extra operator, during Field Day and can she operate in the Amateur Extra segment even though she holds a Novice license?

A. She may "participate" as a third party outside the Novice bands, but she may not "operate." A control operator *must* be on duty whenever she operates outside of her Novice privileges using the call of NU0X. FCC Rules state that "A control operator must ensure the immediate proper operation of the station..." [97.105(a)]. The rules go on to say, "A station may only be operated in the manner and to the extent permitted by the privileges authorized for the class of operator license held by the control operator" [97.105(b)].

If no control operator is present, the Novice is limited to the Novice segments, since she is the control operator. Use of an Amateur Extra call does not automatically authorize the operator additional privileges without the presence of an Amateur Extra control operator. Note that although no new Novice licenses are issued effective April 15, 2000, existing licensees may operate and renew their licenses indefinitely.

Q. I am an Amateur Extra licensee, but I am going to use a Novice operator's station and call sign during Field Day. Can I legally operate her station and use her call outside the Novice subbands?

A. You, the Amateur Extra, can be designated as the control operator. If you are authorized by the licensee, you may use the call sign of the Novice licensee and operate only within the Novice privileges. However, if an Amateur Extra control operator wants to operate outside the Novice operator privileges, he may do so, but he must identify by appending his call to that of the Novice, such as signing "KA1UFZ/NU0X" on CW or separating the calls by the word "stroke" on phone [97.105(a) and (b), 97.119(e)]. True, this is a long identification procedure, but it is the only way to identify in this case.

Why would an Amateur Extra want to use a Novice call, you ask. Well, that may not always be the case, but it clearly illustrates the point.

Q. What about a club that has a General licensee as trustee? There are lots of Amateur Extra amateurs in our club. Can we go outside the General subbands using the club call?

A. Yes, because the club station license carries no privileges. There must be a duly licensed control operator who is willing to provide the control operator functions. Remember that the club station trustee and the control operator share responsibility.

Q. Are there any exceptions to the FCC Rules for Field Day?

A. No, all FCC Rules apply 365 days a year. Of course, Field Day participants must also observe additional Field Day rules as set forth by the ARRL.

Q. During Field Day, members of the public wander through as we operate. Many times, these unlicensed individuals want to operate. Can they legally operate our Field Day station?

A. Yes, but only a licensed amateur is eligible to be the control operator. Although an unlicensed person can't be the control operator of an amateur station, they may *participate*. In cases when a third party is participating, the control operator must be present at the control point and must be continuously monitoring and supervising the third party's participation. Third parties may only communicate directly with countries with which the US has signed third-party agreements [97.115(a) and (b)].

Q. During Field Day, our club uses the call sign of one of our Amateur Extra operators and we generally operate in the Amateur Extra subbands. One of our Technician operators made contacts last year with several countries with which the US does not share a third-party traffic agreement. Is that legal?

A. Even though Field Day is primarily an event for stations in the Americas, an occasional foreign contact may be made outside ITU Region 2. Part 97 states "[The prohibition on third party traffic] does not apply to a message for any third party who is eligible to be a control operator of the station" [97.115(a)(2)]. In this case, the answer is that it is not legal because a Technician operator is not eligible to be a control operator of a station operating outside the Technician segment.