



PUBLIC NOTICE

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WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU CLARIFIES PROCEDURES FOR LICENSING TRUNKED RADIO SYSTEMS OPERATING BETWEEN 150-512 MHz

On June 28, 2000, the Commission adopted a *Report and Order (R&O)* in WT Docket No. 98-182 and PR Docket No. 92-235. Among other things, the *R&O* modified Section 90.187 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 90.187, governing the operation and licensing of trunked radio systems below 512 MHz. More specifically, the Commission revised the definition of trunked systems governed by this rule section. The section now pertains to all types of trunked systems (centralized, decentralized, and hybrid) authorized in the Part 90 150-512 MHz bands.¹ Further, the Commission specified new licensing procedures with respect to trunked radio systems operating in the 150-512 MHz bands. The new rules will become effective November 12, 2000.

Under the new licensing procedures, in order for a licensee to operate in the trunked mode (centralized, decentralized, or hybrid) its license must specify a trunked radio service code.² Applicants proposing to operate trunked systems on channels in the Industrial/Business Pool, *see* 47 C.F.R. § 90.35, must use the YG code. Applicants proposing to operate trunked systems on channels in the Public Safety Pool, *see* 47 C.F.R. § 90.20, must use the YW code.

In addition to providing that licenses must specify a trunked radio service code in order to operate a trunked system, the Commission established a new station class code for trunking - FB8. Applicants must use this FB8 station class code for channels that are not subject to a monitoring requirement (*i.e.*, the

¹ In a "centralized trunked system", the base station controller provides dynamic channel assignments by automatically searching all channels in the system for and assigning to a user an open channel within that system. In a "decentralized trunked system", which is also a system of dynamic channel assignment, the system continually monitors the assigned channels for activity both within the trunked system and outside the trunked system, and transmits only when an open channel is found. A "hybrid trunked system" is one where at least one of the frequencies being trunked but not all the frequencies being trunked meet the criteria specified in 47 C.F.R. § 90.187(b).

² Previously, entities proposing decentralized trunked systems did not have to specify a trunked code; instead they used a code for conventional operation (IG or PW).

applicant/licensee has obtained the necessary consent or has exclusive use of the channel).³ Under this new requirement, all channels associated with a centralized trunked system and any channels in a hybrid system where the necessary consent has been obtained or are licensed on an exclusive basis must have an FB8 code. Applicants proposing a decentralized trunked system are subject to monitoring requirements and, therefore, would not use the FB8 code. As noted above, however, applications for decentralized trunked systems must still specify a trunked radio service code (*i.e.*, YG or YW).

In adopting the new rules, the Commission noted that there may be a substantial number of entities who would require a license modification under the new procedures (*e.g.*, entities operating decentralized trunked systems who need to modify their licenses to specify the appropriate trunked radio service code). To minimize the impact on these existing licensees, the Commission stated that it would allow existing trunked licensees six months from the release of the *R&O* to modify their licenses to indicate a trunked radio station code without having to go through frequency coordination or paying a Commission fee.⁴ Such requests should be submitted in the form of a letter to the following address: FCC, Attention: Trunking License Correction, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. Licensees may request the conversion of multiple licenses in a single request. The letter request must include the licensee's name, contact phone number, the call sign(s) of all licenses to be converted (listed alphabetically), and the signature of the applicant as required by 47 C.F.R. § 1.917.

In order to maintain the necessary distinction between licenses previously granted with a trunked radio service code and those licenses being modified under the above procedure, the Commission will, prior to acting on the letter requests, update its database to reflect a FB8 station class code on all licenses that currently specify a trunked radio service code. This update will take place once the new rules go into effect.⁵ Once the database has been updated, the licensing staff of the Bureau's Public Safety and Private Wireless Division will begin processing any individual letter requests filed under the *R&O* to convert to the new trunked radio service code. Licensees operating decentralized trunked systems who desire to operate in a trunked mode not requiring monitoring must file an application for modification to replace their current class of station code with a FB8 code. Such applications must comply with the frequency coordination requirements, be accompanied by the appropriate licensing fee and satisfy the requirements under Rule 90.187.

Anyone having questions about this matter may contact the Licensing and Technical Analysis Branch in Gettysburg, PA at (717) 338-2646.

³ Under the Part 90 Rules, pertaining to trunked systems, such systems must meet monitoring requirements. The monitoring requirements, however, do not apply if certain conditions are met. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 90.187 (b) and (c).

⁴ The *R&O* was released July 12, 2000.

⁵ The new rules will go into effect November 12, 2000.