



PUBLIC NOTICE

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Media Bureau Announces Communications Restoration Processes for MVPDs and CARS in Response to Hurricane Rita

This Public Notice establishes procedures to assist in the restoration of cable television and other multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs) that have been damaged by Hurricane Rita and are governed by Parts 76 and 78 of the Commission's rules.

Cable Television Relay Service (CARS): Stations in areas impacted by the hurricane may file requests for Special Temporary Authority (STA) for temporary facilities or modification to existing facilities for restoration informally, including through E-mail communications, and will be given expedited processing. Operation under CARS STAs may commence immediately upon local coordination. Notification to the Commission must be made within 48 hours of commencement and is subject to ratification or modification by us. All requests for emergency operation must be coordinated with local frequency coordinators. Interference protection to state and local emergency and public safety services must be maintained. All licensees must be aware that land mobile and Amateur licensees may have unusual modes of operation for the provision for emergency communications under Sections 2.405 and 97.401 of the Rules and these should be protected.

MVPD Technical Compliance: The following technical requirements are waived for ninety days from the release of this notice: Sections 76.601 [Performance Tests]; 76.605 [Technical Standards], but not 76.605(a)(12) [leakage limits]; and 76.614 [System Monitoring]. Media Bureau Engineering Division staff will provide a point of contact and expedited service and coordination, including temporary rule waivers where necessary, with all other provisions of Part 76 of the Rules, including those relating to signal leakage.

STA requests and questions should be sent to RitaMVPD-cars@fcc.gov. Other correspondence for these interim restoration processes should be directed to Wayne McKee (202) 418-2355 and Michael Lance (202) 418-7014 of the Media Bureau's Engineering Division. Non-business hours, please call the Commission's Communication and Crisis Management Center at (202) 418-1122.