

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. (42924)

PRESS RELEASE

August 27, 1940

ORDER NO. 73-A, AFFECTING AMATEURS, CLARIFIED

There has been unnecessary confusion in some minds regarding Federal Communications Commission Order No. 73 as amended by Order No. 73-A, restricting the use of portable and portable-mobile radio equipment by amateurs.

Order No. 73-A does not in any sense rescind the original order No. 73, but merely makes it possible for amateurs to continue the development and testing of equipment designed and built for the sole purpose of emergency use. This relaxation of Order 73 does not, and was not intended to, authorize the use of emergency equipment for routine amateur communications. It was made in the realization that effective emergency communication can only be based on prior experience, including personnel and equipment, all thoroughly coordinated into a communication network. Any extension of Order 73-A to cover the use of regular portable or portable-mobile equipment under the guise of "testing for emergency purposes" is an unwarranted and unauthorized stretching of the letter of the order.

The Commission's press release of June 11, authorizing the moving of amateur stations from one fixed location to another, is not intended to permit short-period operation from a location other than that noted in the station license. It is difficult to draw an absolute dividing line between what is considered a "summer residence" and what is not, but week-ends or short vacation periods do not constitute "summer residence." On the other hand, a move to a summer cottage for a four-month period could be considered a "summer residence."

The announcement of June 11 was a convenience to permit amateurs to continue operation even though they might move from one fixed location to another in routine civil life. It was not contemplated as a means whereby amateurs could operate their stations from week-end vacation locations, or similar situations definitely restricted under Order No. 73.