

## Federal Communications Commission

## § 11.11

priority over any other message and preempt it if it is in progress.

(b) *EAS Participants*. Entities required under the Commission's rules to comply with EAS rules, e.g., analog radio and television stations, and wired and wireless cable television systems, DBS, DTV, SDARS, digital cable and DAB, and wireline video systems.

(c) *Wireline Video System*. The system of a wireline common carrier used to provide video programming service.

(d) *Intermediary Device*. An intermediary device is a stand-alone device that carries out the functions of monitoring for, receiving and/or acquiring, and decoding EAS messages formatted in the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) in accordance with § 11.56, and converting such messages into a format that can be inputted into a separate EAS decoder, EAS encoder, or unit combining such decoder and encoder functions, so that the EAS message outputted by such separate EAS decoder, EAS encoder, or unit combining such decoder and encoder functions, and all other functions attendant to processing such EAS message, comply with the requirements in this part.

[77 FR 16698, Mar. 22, 2012, as amended at 83 FR 37759, Aug. 2, 2018; 87 FR 67823, Nov. 10, 2022]

### § 11.11 The Emergency Alert System (EAS).

(a) The EAS is composed of analog radio broadcast stations including AM,

FM, and Low-power FM (LPFM) stations; digital audio broadcasting (DAB) stations, including digital AM, FM, and Low-power FM stations; Class A television (CA) and Low-power TV (LPTV) stations; digital television (DTV) broadcast stations, including digital CA and digital LPTV stations; analog cable systems; digital cable systems which are defined for purposes of this part only as the portion of a cable system that delivers channels in digital format to subscribers at the input of a Unidirectional Digital Cable Product or other navigation device; wireline video systems; wireless cable systems which may consist of Broadband Radio Service (BRS), or Educational Broadband Service (EBS) stations; DBS services, as defined in § 25.701(a) of this chapter (including certain Ku-band Fixed-Satellite Service Direct to Home providers); and SDARS, as defined in § 25.201 of this chapter. These entities are referred to collectively as EAS Participants in this part, and are subject to this part, except as otherwise provided herein. At a minimum EAS Participants must use a common EAS protocol, as defined in § 11.31, to send and receive emergency alerts, and comply with the requirements set forth in § 11.56, in accordance with the following tables:

TABLE 1—ANALOG AND DIGITAL BROADCAST STATION EQUIPMENT DEPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

EAS equipment requirement	AM & FM	Digital AM & FM	Analog & digital FM class D	Analog & digital LPFM	DTV	Analog & digital class A TV	Analog & digital LPTV
EAS decoder <sup>1</sup> .....	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
EAS encoder .....	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N
Audio message .....	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Video message .....	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Y	Y	Y

<sup>1</sup> EAS Participants may comply with the obligations set forth in § 11.56 to decode and convert CAP-formatted messages into EAS Protocol-compliant messages by deploying an Intermediary Device, as specified in § 11.56(b).

### ANALOG CABLE SYSTEMS

Analog cable systems are subject to the requirements in Table 2 below. Analog cable systems serving fewer than 5,000 subscribers from a headend may either provide the National level EAS message on all programmed channels including the required testing, or

comply with the requirements in Table 2.

TABLE 2—ANALOG CABLE SYSTEM EQUIPMENT DEPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

EAS equipment requirement	≥5,000 subscribers	<5,000 subscribers
EAS decoder <sup>1</sup> .....	Y	Y

TABLE 2—ANALOG CABLE SYSTEM EQUIPMENT DEPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS—Continued

EAS equipment requirement	≥5,000 subscribers	<5,000 subscribers
EAS encoder .....	Y	Y <sup>2</sup>
Audio and Video EAS Message on all channels .....	Y	N
Video interrupt and audio alert message on all channels; <sup>3</sup> Audio and Video EAS message on at least one channel .....	N	Y

<sup>1</sup> EAS Participants may comply with the obligations set forth in § 11.56 to decode and convert CAP-formatted messages into EAS Protocol-compliant messages by deploying an Intermediary Device, as specified in § 11.56(b).

<sup>2</sup> Analog cable systems serving <5,000 subscribers are permitted to operate without an EAS encoder if they install an FCC-certified decoder.

<sup>3</sup> The Video interrupt must cause all channels that carry programming to flash for the duration of the EAS emergency message. The audio alert must give the channel where the EAS messages are carried and be repeated for the duration of the EAS message. [Note: Programmed channels do not include channels used for the transmission of data such as interactive games.]

#### WIRELESS CABLE SYSTEMS (BRS/EBS STATIONS)

Wireless cable systems are subject to the requirements in Table 3 below. Wireless cable systems serving fewer than 5,000 subscribers from a single transmission site must either provide the National level EAS message on all programmed channels including the required testing, or comply with the requirements in Table 3.

TABLE 3—WIRELESS CABLE SYSTEM EQUIPMENT DEPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

EAS equipment requirement	≥5,000 subscribers	<5,000 subscribers
EAS decoder <sup>1</sup> .....	Y	Y
EAS encoder .....	Y	Y <sup>2</sup>
Audio and Video EAS Message on all channels <sup>3</sup> .....	Y	N
Video interrupt and audio alert message on all channels; <sup>4</sup> Audio and Video EAS message on at least one channel .....	N	Y

<sup>1</sup> EAS Participants may comply with the obligations set forth in § 11.56 to decode and convert CAP-formatted messages into EAS Protocol-compliant messages by deploying an Intermediary Device, as specified in § 11.56(b).

<sup>2</sup> Wireless cable systems serving <5,000 subscribers are permitted to operate without an EAS encoder if they install an FCC-certified decoder.

<sup>3</sup> All wireless cable systems may comply with this requirement by providing a means to switch all programmed channels to a predesignated channel that carries the required audio and video EAS messages.

<sup>4</sup> The Video interrupt must cause all channels that carry programming to flash for the duration of the EAS emergency message. The audio alert must give the channel where the EAS messages are carried and be repeated for the duration of the EAS message. [Note: Programmed channels do not include channels used for the transmission of data services such as Internet.]

#### DIGITAL CABLE SYSTEMS AND WIRELINE VIDEO SYSTEMS

Digital cable systems and Wireline Video Systems must comply with the requirements in Table 4 below. Digital cable systems and Wireline Video Sys-

tems serving fewer than 5,000 subscribers from a headend must either provide the National level EAS message on all programmed channels including the required testing, or comply with the requirements in Table 4.

TABLE 4—DIGITAL CABLE SYSTEM AND WIRELINE VIDEO SYSTEM EQUIPMENT DEPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

EAS equipment requirement	≥5,000 subscribers	<5,000 subscribers
EAS decoder <sup>1</sup> .....	Y	Y
EAS encoder .....	Y	Y <sup>2</sup>
Audio and Video EAS Message on all channels <sup>3</sup> .....	Y	N
Video interrupt and audio alert message on all channels; <sup>4</sup> Audio and Video EAS message on at least one channel .....	N	Y

<sup>1</sup> EAS Participants may comply with the obligations set forth in § 11.56 to decode and convert CAP-formatted messages into EAS Protocol-compliant messages by deploying an Intermediary Device, as specified in § 11.56(b).

<sup>2</sup> Digital cable systems and wireline video systems serving <5,000 subscribers are permitted to operate without an EAS encoder if they install an FCC-certified decoder.

<sup>3</sup> All digital cable systems and wireline video systems may comply with this requirement by providing a means to switch all programmed channels to a predesignated channel that carries the required audio and video EAS messages.

<sup>4</sup> The Video interrupt must cause all channels that carry programming to flash for the duration of the EAS emergency message. The audio alert must give the channel where the EAS messages are carried and be repeated for the duration of the EAS message. [Note: Programmed channels do not include channels used for the transmission of data services such as Internet access.]

## SDARS AND DBS

EAS equipment requirement	SDARS	DBS
EAS decoder <sup>1</sup> .....	Y	Y
EAS encoder .....	Y	Y
Audio message on all channels <sup>2</sup> .....	Y	Y
Video message on all channels <sup>2</sup> .....	N/A	Y

<sup>1</sup>EAS Participants may comply with the obligations set forth in § 11.56 to decode and convert CAP-formatted messages into EAS Protocol-compliant messages by deploying an Intermediary Device, as specified in § 11.56(b).

<sup>2</sup>All SDARS and DBS providers may comply with this requirement by providing a means to switch all programmed channels to a predesignated channel that carries the required audio and video EAS messages or by any other method that ensures that viewers of all channels receive the EAS message.

(b) Analog class D non-commercial educational FM stations as defined in § 73.506 of this chapter, digital class D non-commercial educational FM stations, analog LPFM stations as defined in §§ 73.811 and 73.853 of this chapter, digital LPFM stations, analog LPTV stations as defined in § 74.701(f), and digital LPTV stations as defined in § 74.701(k) of this chapter are not required to comply with § 11.32. Analog and digital LPTV stations that operate as television broadcast translator stations, as defined in § 74.701(b) of this chapter, are not required to comply with the requirements of this part. FM broadcast booster stations as defined in § 74.1201(f) of this chapter and FM translator stations as defined in § 74.1201(a) of this chapter which entirely rebroadcast the programming of other local FM broadcast stations are not required to comply with the requirements of this part. International broadcast stations as defined in § 73.701 of this chapter are not required to comply with the requirements of this part. Analog and digital broadcast stations that operate as satellites or repeaters of a hub station (or common studio or control point if there is no hub station) and rebroadcast 100 percent of the programming of the hub station (or common studio or control point) may satisfy the requirements of this part through the use of a single set of EAS equipment at the hub station (or common studio or control point) which complies with §§ 11.32 and 11.33.

(c) For purposes of the EAS, Broadband Radio Service (BRS) and Educational Broadband Service (EBS) stations operated as part of wireless cable systems in accordance with subpart M of part 27 of this chapter are defined as follows:

(1) A “wireless cable system” is a collection of channels in the BRS or EBS used to provide video programming services to subscribers. The channels may be licensed to or leased by the wireless cable system operator.

(2) A “wireless cable operator” is the entity that has acquired the right to use the channels of a wireless cable system for transmission of programming to subscribers.

(d) Local franchise authorities may use any EAS codes authorized by the FCC in any agreements.

(e) Other technologies and public service providers, such as low earth orbiting satellites, that wish to participate in the EAS may contact the FCC’s Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau or their State Emergency Communications Committee for information and guidance.

[63 FR 29662, June 1, 1998, as amended at 65 FR 7639, Feb. 15, 2000; 65 FR 21657, Apr. 24, 2000; 65 FR 30001, May 10, 2000; 65 FR 34406, May 30, 2000; 67 FR 18506, Apr. 16, 2002; 69 FR 72031, Dec. 10, 2004; 70 FR 19315, Apr. 13, 2005; 70 FR 71031, Nov. 25, 2005; 71 FR 76220, Dec. 20, 2006; 72 FR 62132, Nov. 2, 2007; 77 FR 16699, Mar. 22, 2012]

## §§ 11.12–11.14 [Reserved]

## § 11.15 EAS Operating Handbook.

The EAS Operating Handbook states in summary form the actions to be taken by personnel at EAS Participant facilities upon receipt of an EAN, an EAT, tests, or State and Local Area alerts. It is issued by the FCC and contains instructions for the above situations. A copy of the Handbook must be located at normal duty positions or EAS equipment locations when an operator is required to be on duty and be