

## § 73.1520

### § 73.1520 Operation for tests and maintenance.

(a) Broadcast stations may be operated for tests and maintenance of their transmitting systems on their assigned frequencies using their licensed operating power and antennas during their authorized hours of operation without specific authorization from the FCC.

(b) Licensees of AM stations may operate for tests and maintenance during the hours from 12 midnight local time to local sunrise, if no interference is caused to other stations maintaining a regular operating schedule within such period. No AM station licensed for "daytime" or "specified hours" of operation may broadcast any regular or scheduled programs during this period of test and maintenance operation.

(c) Licensees of AM stations may obtain special antenna test authorizations, and operate under the provisions described in § 73.157, to operate with nighttime facilities during daytime hours in conducting directional antenna field strength and antenna proof of performance measurements.

[43 FR 32783, July 28, 1978, as amended at 45 FR 6401, Jan. 28, 1980]

### § 73.1530 Portable test stations [Definition].

A portable test station is one that is moved from place to place for making field strength and ground conductivity measurements, for selecting station transmitter sites, and conducting other specialized propagation tests. Portable test stations are not normally used while in motion, and may not be used for the transmission of programs intended to be received by the public.

[43 FR 32783, July 28, 1978]

### § 73.1540 Carrier frequency measurements.

(a) The carrier frequency of each AM and FM station and the visual carrier frequency and the difference between the visual carrier and the aural carrier or center frequency of each TV and Class A TV station shall be measured or determined as often as necessary to ensure that they are maintained within the prescribed tolerances.

(b) In measuring the carrier frequency, the licensee may use any

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method or procedure that has sufficient precision to establish that the carrier frequency is within the prescribed departure limits.

(c) The primary standard of frequency for radio frequency measurements is the standard frequency maintained by the National Bureau of Standards or the standard signals of Stations WWV, WWVB, and WWVH of the National Bureau of Standards.

[43 FR 32783, July 28, 1978, as amended at 48 FR 44805, Sept. 30, 1983; 65 FR 30004, May 10, 2000]

### § 73.1545 Carrier frequency departure tolerances.

(a) *AM stations.* The departure of the carrier frequency for monophonic transmissions or center frequency for stereophonic transmissions may not exceed  $\pm 20$  Hz from the assigned frequency.

(b) *FM stations.* (1) The departure of the carrier or center frequency of an FM station with an authorized transmitter output power more than 10 watts may not exceed  $\pm 2000$  Hz from the assigned frequency.

(2) The departure of the carrier or center frequency of an FM station with an authorized transmitter output power of 10 watts or less may not exceed  $\pm 3000$  Hz from the assigned frequency.

(c) *TV stations.* (1) The departure of the visual carrier frequency of a TV station may not exceed  $\pm 1000$  Hz from the assigned visual carrier frequency.

(2) The departure of the aural carrier frequency of a TV station may not exceed  $\pm 1000$  Hz from the actual visual carrier frequency plus exactly 4.5 MHz.

(d) *International broadcast stations.* The departure of the carrier frequency of an International broadcast station may not exceed 0.0015% of the assigned frequency on which the station is transmitting.

(e) *Class A TV stations.* The departure of the carrier frequency of Class A TV stations may not exceed the values specified in § 74.761 of this chapter. Provided, however, Class A TV stations licensed to operate with a maximum effective radiated power greater than the value specified in their initial Class A