

FCC Inspectors watching EAS compliance closely

We wanted to remind everyone that broadcast stations are required to comply with **all** FCC rules and regulations covering EAS operations.

In recent inspections by the FCC and during the state alternative inspections (ABIP), a surprising number of stations are not complying fully with current rules.

Just this month the Commission issued two fines for EAS non-compliance. One for \$8,000 and one for \$5,000 for not having EAS receivers that were in compliance with FCC rules.

One of the biggest problems is with receivers that either have never had the correct date set, or which have a clock which is malfunctioning so that the correct date and time is not properly updated. Inspectors have also noted that many times they find EAS receivers not having the proper audio inputs so that they can receive the sources that they are supposed to be monitoring

Basically stations are required to.....

1. Have operational equipment
2. Monitor the two (2) sources* assigned by the State EAS Committee
3. Receive and log the Required Weekly Test (RWT) from both sources.
4. Transmit and log the Required Weekly Test (RWT) on all streams.
5. Receive, relay and log the Required Monthly Test (RMT) on all streams.
6. Receive, relay and log any EAN (emergency messages from the White House on all streams).

It is very important that the Chief Operator review, sign and date the Station Log (which has all the above test logged). Should there be any discrepancies the Chief Operator should notify the appropriate personnel.

EAS is one of the major areas that is covered in the Alternative Broadcast Inspections(ABIP) offered by your State Broadcasters Association. A prepared EAS log is made available to all stations participating in the ABIP.

Contact the ABA today to get more information or to schedule an Alternative Inspection at your station. By having an Alternative Inspection you can avoid sharing your stations cash flow with the US Treasury.

*All radio and TV stations in Alabama are required to monitor two sources, Alabama Public TV and the Alabama Digital Satellite Network. If a radio station isn't an affiliate of ADSN they should monitor the nearest station that carries Alabama or Auburn sports. A list of APT stations and ADSN affiliates appears on the ABA website at www.al-ba.com.

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