

Help with FCC Licensing for GPS/RTK Data Operations

Because GPS/RTK data operations involve radio transmissions on frequencies shared with voice and other data operations, these are subject to the rules, regulations, and licensing requirements of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC). To promote fair and equitable use of these shared frequencies, a license is required for nearly all operations.

A license covers either local area or national use and may be obtained by submitting FCC Form 601. This form requests specific information about transmitter location, mode of use, frequency, output power, and other parameters. Some of the information required may be quite technical, and various resources are available to help applicants obtain licensing. Josie Lynch at Professional Licensing Consultants, Inc., is one frequency coordinator that can review all FCC application forms and ensure the application process proceeds smoothly.

“It costs a few hundred dollars to obtain a license, which is good for 10 years and can be renewed,” says Josie Lynch of PLCI. “Costs include a \$100 FCC filing fee and a \$110 frequency coordination fee. PLCI also charges \$125 for application help and processing.”

For their fee, PLCI will prepare and send an applicant an FCC Form 601 package. The package also includes FCC Form 572C Conditional Temporary Operating Authority. The applicant reviews and signs the forms, returning Form 601 to PLCI and retaining 572C for their records.

“Once PLCI receives the signed application, the application is forwarded to the appropriate frequency coordination committee,” says Lynch. “The committee will perform the coordination process as required by the FCC rules and then submit the application to the FCC.”

“The frequency coordinator will inform PLCI when the coordination is completed and the application form is filed with the FCC,” continues Lynch. “Upon receipt of the confirmation of coordination, PLCI provides the applicant with a complete copy of all paperwork. At the time, you may begin to use your radio under the FCC Form 572C Conditional Temporary Operating Authority, which you must keep as part of your station records.”

Help with FCC Licensing... (continued)

Lynch adds, "Care should be taken while operating your radios to ensure compliance with all FCC Rules, which, by the way, all license holders are required to have. Particularly, all frequencies are assigned on a shared basis and each licensee must monitor the frequency prior to each transmission for communication in progress. In addition, continuous carrier transmissions are prohibited on shared channels."

Other resources for FCC licensing support include local communications consultants, radio manufacturers and resellers, and the FCC itself. The Personal Communications Industry Association (PCIA) offers an excellent publication containing a detailed description of the licensing process as well as current copies of relevant FCC regulations. The FCC Rules (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 47, Parts 80 to End) also are available from the US Government Printing Office.

Contact Information:

Personal Communications Industry Association

Telephone: 703.739.0300

www.pcia.com

U.S. Government Printing Office

Telephone: 202.512.1800

www.gpoaccess.gov



990 Richard Avenue, Suite 110, Santa Clara, California 95050
Toll Free: 800.795.1001 Phone: 408.653.2070 Fax: 408.748.9984
Email: sales@pacificcrest.com Web: www.pacificcrest.com