

## Federal Communications Commission

## § 87.421

essential for the handling of existing air traffic.

(iii) Operate aeronautical radio-navigation stations to ensure that required stations, as indicated in flight plans, will be available for authorized aircraft flights.

(3) Licensees of aeronautical radio-navigation stations will be notified of the reduction or removal of SCATANA restrictions by FAA ARTCCs when notice of the termination is issued.

(4) Licensees of aeronautical radio-navigation stations may voluntarily participate in SCATANA tests as requested by an ARTCC. SCATANA testing must not interrupt the normal service of non-Federal air navigation aids.

### § 87.397 Emergency operations.

(a) The licensee of any land station in the Aviation services, during a local emergency involving the safety of life and property may communicate in a manner other than that specified in the license (See § 87.395). Such emergency operations may include operation at other locations or with equipment not specified in the license or by unlicensed personnel provided that:

(1) Such operations are under the control and supervision of the station licensee,

(2) The emergency use is discontinued as soon as practicable upon termination of the emergency,

(3) In no event shall any station transmit on frequencies other than or with power in excess of that specified in the license,

(4) The details of the emergency must be retained with the station license, and

(5) At a controlled airport these communications must be coordinated with the FAA.

(b) The unicom frequencies listed in subpart G may also be used for communications with private aircraft engaged in organized civil defense activities in preparation for, during an enemy attack or immediately after an enemy attack. When used for these purposes, unicoms may be moved from place to place or operated at unspecified locations, except at landing areas served by other unicoms or control towers.

(c) In any case in which a license for unattended operation has been granted, the Commission may at any time, for national defense, modify the license.

## Subpart O—Airport Control Tower Stations

### § 87.417 Scope of service.

(a) Airport control tower stations (control towers) and control tower remote communications outlet stations (RCOs) must limit their communications to the necessities of safe and expeditious operations of aircraft operating on or in the vicinity of the airport. Control towers and RCOs provide air traffic control services to aircraft landing, taking off and taxiing on the airport as well as aircraft transiting the airport traffic area. Additionally, control towers and RCOs can provide air traffic control services to vehicles operating on airport movement areas (see subpart L of this part). Control towers and RCOs must serve all aircraft without discrimination. An RCO must be remotely operated from a control tower or other FAA control facility located at a nearby airport.

(b) A control tower must maintain a continuous watch on the following frequencies during the hours of operation:

121.500 MHz  
3023.0 kHz (Alaska only)  
5680.0 kHz (Alaska only)

The Commission may exempt from these watch requirements the licensee of an airport control tower station if a satisfactory showing has been made that such an exemption will not adversely affect life and property in the air.

[53 FR 28940, Aug. 1, 1988, as amended at 54 FR 11721, Mar. 22, 1989; 55 FR 30464, July 26, 1990]

### § 87.419 Supplemental eligibility.

Only one control tower or RCO will be licensed at an airport.

[64 FR 27476, May 20, 1999]

### § 87.421 Frequencies.

The Commission will assign VHF frequencies after coordination with the FAA. Frequencies in the following

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bands are available to control towers and RCOs. Channel spacing is 25 kHz.

- 118.000–121.400 MHz
- 121.600–121.925 MHz
- 123.600–128.800 MHz
- 132.025–135.975 MHz

(a) The frequency 123.100 MHz is available for use by control towers and RCOs at special aeronautical events on the condition that no harmful interference is caused to search and rescue operations in the locale involved.

(b) Frequencies in the bands 200.0–285.0 and 325.0–405.0 kHz will normally be assigned only to control towers and RCOs authorized to operate on at least one VHF frequency. The Commission may assign frequencies in these bands to entities that do not provide VHF service in cases where granting such an application will not adversely affect life and property in the air.

(c) Frequencies listed in the introductory paragraph of this section are available to control towers and RCOs for communications with ground vehicles and aircraft on the ground. The antenna heights shall be restricted to the minimum necessary to achieve the required coverage. Channel spacing is 25 kHz.

(d) 121.500 MHz: emergency and distress only.

[53 FR 28940, Aug. 1, 1988, as amended at 55 FR 30464, July 26, 1990; 63 FR 68958, Dec. 14, 1998; 69 FR 32886, June 14, 2004; 71 FR 70680, Dec. 6, 2006]

**§ 87.423 Hours of operation.**

The control tower must render a communications service 24 hours a day unless the Commission determines, in coordination with the NTIA IRAC, that reduced hours of service will not adversely affect life and property in the air.

[63 FR 68958, Dec. 14, 1998]

**§ 87.425 Interference.**

Control towers and RCOs must not cause harmful interference to control towers or RCOs at adjacent airports. If interference between adjacent control towers or RCOs exists, the Commission will direct the licensees how to eliminate the interference.

[55 FR 30465, July 26, 1990]

**Subpart P—Operational Fixed Stations**

**§ 87.445 Scope of service.**

An operational fixed station provides control, repeater or relay functions for its associated aeronautical station.

**§ 87.447 Supplemental eligibility.**

An applicant for an operational fixed station must certify that:

- (a) The applicant is the licensee of an aeronautical land station in the aeronautical mobile service; and
- (b) Common carrier facilities are not available to satisfy the aeronautical station's requirements.

[53 FR 28940, Aug. 1, 1988, as amended at 63 FR 68958, Dec. 14, 1998]

**§ 87.449 Frequencies.**

The following frequencies in the 72–76 MHz band are assignable to operational fixed stations using vertical polarization, if no harmful interference is caused to TV reception on Channels 4 and 5. These frequencies are shared with the Land Mobile and the Maritime Mobile Services.

OPERATIONAL FREQUENCIES IN THE 72–76 MHz BAND	
<i>Carrier frequency in MHz</i>	
72.02	72.66
72.04	72.68
72.06	72.70
72.08	72.72
72.10	72.74
72.12	72.76
72.14	72.78
72.16	72.80
72.18	72.82
72.20	72.84
72.22	72.86
72.24	72.88
72.26	72.90
72.28	72.92
72.30	72.94
72.32	72.96
72.34	72.98
72.36	75.42
72.38	75.46
72.40	75.50
72.42	75.54
72.46	75.58
72.50	75.62
72.54	75.64
72.58	75.66
72.62	75.68
72.64	75.70