

(b) Applicants for noncommercial educational FM stations within 199 miles (320 km) of the United States-Mexican border shall propose at least Class A minimum facilities (see §73.211(a)). However, existing Class D noncommercial educational stations may apply to change frequency within the educational portion of the FM band in accordance with the requirements set forth in §73.512.

(c) Section 73.208 of this chapter shall be complied with as to the determination of reference points and distance computations used in applications for new or changed facilities. However, if it is necessary to consider a Mexican channel assignment or authorization, the computation of distance will be determined as follows: if a transmitter site has been established, on the basis of the coordinates of the site; if a transmitter site has not been established, on the basis of the reference coordinates of the community, town, or city.

[52 FR 43765, Nov. 16, 1987]

§ 73.505 Zones.

For the purpose of assignment of noncommercial educational FM stations, the United States is divided into three zones, Zone I, Zone I-A, and Zone II, having the boundaries specified in §73.205.

[42 FR 36823, July 18, 1977]

§ 73.506 Classes of noncommercial educational FM stations and channels.

(a) Noncommercial educational stations operating on the channels specified in §73.501 are divided into the following classes:

(1) A Class D educational station is one operating with no more than 10 watts transmitter power output.

(2) A Class D educational (secondary) station is one operating with no more than 10 watts transmitter power output in accordance with the terms of §73.512 or which has elected to follow these requirements before they become applicable under the terms of §73.512.

(3) Noncommercial educational FM (NCE-FM) stations with more than 10 watts transmitter power output are classified as Class A, B1, B, C3, C2, C1, or C depending on the station's effec-

tive radiated power and antenna height above average terrain, and on the zone in which the station's transmitter is located, on the same basis as set forth in §§73.210 and 73.211 for commercial stations.

(b) Any noncommercial educational station except Class D may be assigned to any of the channels listed in §73.501. Class D noncommercial educational FM stations applied for or authorized prior to June 1, 1980, may continue to operate on their authorized channels subject to the provisions of §73.512.

[43 FR 39715, Sept. 6, 1978, as amended at 49 FR 10264, Mar. 20, 1984; 52 FR 47569, Dec. 15, 1987; 54 FR 16367, Apr. 24, 1989; 54 FR 19374, May 5, 1989]

§ 73.507 Minimum distance separations between stations.

(a) *Minimum distance separations.* No application for a new station, or change in channel or transmitter site or increase in facilities of an existing station, will be granted unless the proposed facilities will be located so as to meet the adjacent channel distance separations specified in §73.207(a) for the class of station involved with respect to assignment on Channels 221, 222, and 223 listed in §73.201 (except where in the case of an existing station the proposed facilities fall within the provisions of §73.207(b)), or where a Class D station is changing frequency to comply with the requirements of §73.512.

(b) Stations authorized as of September 10, 1962, which do not meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section and §73.511, may continue to operate as authorized; but any application to change facilities will be subject to the provisions of this section.

(c)(1) Stations separated in frequency by 10.6 or 10.8 MHz (53 or 54 channels) from allotments or assignments on non-reserved channels will not be authorized unless they conform to the separations in Table A given in §73.207.

(2) Under the United States-Mexican FM Broadcasting Agreement, for stations and assignments differing in frequency by 10.6 to 10.8 MHz (53 or 54 channels), U.S. noncommercial educational FM allotments and assignments must meet the separations given

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in Table C of § 73.207 to Mexican allotments or assignments in the border area.

(Secs. 4, 5, 303, 48 Stat., as amended, 1066, 1068, 1082 (47 U.S.C. 154, 155, 303))

[42 FR 36828, July 18, 1977, as amended at 43 FR 39716, Sept. 6, 1978; 44 FR 65764, Nov. 15, 1979; 49 FR 10264, Mar. 20, 1984; 49 FR 19670, May 9, 1984]

§ 73.508 Standards of good engineering practice.

(a) All noncommercial educational stations and LPFM stations operating with more than 10 watts transmitter power output shall be subject to all of the provisions of the FM Technical Standards contained in subpart B of this part. Class D educational stations and LPFM stations operating with 10 watts or less transmitter output power shall be subject to the definitions contained in § 73.310, and also to those other provisions of the FM Technical Standards which are specifically made applicable to them by the provisions of this subpart.

(b) The transmitter and associated transmitting equipment of each noncommercial educational FM station and LPFM station licensed for transmitter power output above 10 watts must be designed, constructed and operated in accordance with § 73.317.

(c) The transmitter and associated transmitting equipment of each noncommercial educational FM station licensed for transmitter power output of 10 watts or less, although not required to meet all requirements of § 73.317, must be constructed with the safety provisions of the current national electrical code as approved by the American National Standards Institute. These stations must be operated, tuned, and adjusted so that emissions are not radiated outside the authorized band causing or which are capable of causing interference to the communications of other stations. The audio distortion, audio frequency range, carrier hum, noise level, and other essential phases of the operation which control the external effects, must be at all times capable of providing satisfactory broadcast service. Studio equipment properly covered by an underwriter's

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certificate will be considered as satisfying safety requirements.

[65 FR 7640, Feb. 15, 2000]

§ 73.509 Prohibited overlap.

(a) An application for a new or modified NCE-FM station other than a Class D (secondary) station will not be accepted if the proposed operation would involve overlap of signal strength contours with any other station licensed by the Commission and operating in the reserved band (Channels 200–220, inclusive) as set forth below:

Frequency separation	Contour of proposed station	Contour of other station
Co-channel	0.1 mV/m (40 dBu) ... 1 mV/m (60 dBu)	1 mV/m (60 dBu) 0.1 mV/m (40 dBu)
200 kHz	0.5 mV/m (54 dBu) .. 1 mV/m (60 dBu)1 ...	1 mV/m (60 dBu) 0.5 mV/m (54 dBu)
400 kHz/600 kHz.	100 mV/m (100 dBu) 1 mV/m (60 dBu)	1 mV/m (60 dBu) 100 mV/m (100 dBu)

(b) An application by a Class D (secondary) station, other than an application to change class, will not be accepted if the proposed operation would involve overlap of signal strength contours with any other station as set forth below:

Frequency separation	Contour of proposed station	Contour of any other station
Co-channel	0.1 mV/m (40 dBu) ..	1 mV/m (60 dBu).
200 kHz	0.5 mV/m (54 dBu) ..	1 mV/m (60 dBu).
400 kHz	10 mV/m (80 dBu) ...	1 mV/m (60 dBu).
600 kHz	100 mV/m (100 dBu)	1 mV/m (60 dBu).

(c) The following standards must be used to compute the distances to the pertinent contours:

(1) The distance of the 60 dBu (1 mV/m) contours are to be computed using Figure 1 of § 73.333 [F(50,50) curves] of this part.

(2) The distance to the other contours are to be computed using Figure 1a of § 73.333 [F(50,10) curves]. In the event that the distance to the contour is below 16 kilometers (approximately 10 miles), and therefore not covered by Figure 1a, curves in Figure 1 must be used.

(3) The effective radiated power (ERP) that is the maximum ERP for any elevation plane on any bearing will be used.

(d) An application for a change (other than a change in channel) in the facilities of a NCE-FM broadcast station