

Federal Communications Commission

§73.1216

(Example: An ammeter meeting requirement (1) having full scale reading of 6 amperes is acceptable for reading currents from 2 to 6 amperes, provided no scale division between 2 and 6 amperes is greater than one-thirtieth of 6 amperes, 0.2 ampere.)

(c) Instruments having logarithmic scales:

(1) Meet the requirements of paragraphs (a) (1), (2), and (3) of this section for linear scale instruments.

(2) Full scale reading shall not be greater than five times the minimum normal indication.

(3) No scale division above one-fifth full scale reading (in watts) shall be greater than one-thirtieth of the full scale reading. (Example: A wattmeter meeting requirement (3) having full scale reading of 1,500 watts is acceptable for reading power from 300 to 1,500 watts, provided no scale division between 300 and 1,500 watts is greater than one-thirtieth of 1,500 watts or 50 watts.)

(d) Instruments having expanded scales:

(1) Shall meet the requirements of paragraphs (a) (1), (2), and (3) of this section for linear scale instruments.

(2) Full scale reading shall not be greater than five times the minimum normal indication.

(3) No scale division above one-fifth full scale reading shall be greater than one-fiftieth of the full scale reading. (Example: An ammeter meeting the requirement (1) is acceptable for indicating current from 1 to 5 amperes, provided no division between 1 and 5 amperes is greater than one-fiftieth of 5 amperes, 0.1 ampere.)

(e) Digital meters, printers, or other numerical readout devices may be used in addition to or in lieu of indicating instruments meeting the specifications of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this section. The readout of the device must include at least three digits and must indicate the value of the parameter being read to an accuracy of 2%. The multiplier, if any, to be applied to the reading of each parameter must be indicated at the operating position.

(f) No instrument which has been broken or appears to be damaged or defective, or the accuracy of which is questionable shall be used, until it has

been checked, and if necessary repaired and recalibrated by the manufacturer or qualified instrument repair service. Repaired instruments shall not be used unless a certificate of calibration has been provided showing that the instrument conforms to the manufacturer's specifications for accuracy.

[41 FR 36818, Sept. 1, 1976; 41 FR 43152, Sept. 30, 1976, as amended at 51 FR 2707, Jan. 21, 1986]

§ 73.1216 Licensee-conducted contests.

(a) A licensee that broadcasts or advertises information about a contest it conducts shall fully and accurately disclose the material terms of the contest, and shall conduct the contest substantially as announced or advertised over the air or on the Internet. No contest description shall be false, misleading or deceptive with respect to any material term.

(b) The disclosure of material terms shall be made by the station conducting the contest by either:

(1) Periodic disclosures broadcast on the station; or

(2) Written disclosures on the station's Internet Web site, the licensee's Web site, or if neither the individual station nor the licensee has its own Web site, any Internet Web site that is publicly accessible.

(c) In the case of disclosure under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, a reasonable number of periodic broadcast disclosures is sufficient. In the case of disclosure under paragraph (b)(2) of this section, the station shall:

(1) Establish a conspicuous link or tab to material contest terms on the home page of the Internet Web site;

(2) Announce over the air periodically the availability of material contest terms on the Web site and identify the Web site address where the terms are posted with information sufficient for a consumer to find such terms easily; and

(3) Maintain material contest terms on the Web site for at least thirty days after the contest has concluded. Any changes to the material terms during the course of the contest must be fully disclosed on air within 24 hours of the change on the Web site and periodically thereafter or the fact that such

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changes have been made must be announced on air within 24 hours of the change, and periodically thereafter, and such announcements must direct participants to the written disclosures on the Web site. Material contest terms that are disclosed on an Internet Web site must be consistent in all substantive respects with those mentioned over the air.

NOTE 1 TO § 73.1216: For the purposes of this section:

(a) A contest is a scheme in which a prize is offered or awarded, based upon chance, diligence, knowledge or skill, to members of the public.

(b) Material terms include those factors which define the operation of the contest and which affect participation therein. Although the material terms may vary widely depending upon the exact nature of the contest, they will generally include: How to enter or participate; eligibility restrictions; entry deadline dates; whether prizes can be won; when prizes can be won; the extent, nature and value of prizes; basis for valuation of prizes; time and means of selection of winners; and/or tie-breaking procedures.

Note 2 to § 73.1216: In general, the time and manner of disclosure of the material terms of a contest are within the licensee's discretion. However, the obligation to disclose the material terms arises at the time the audience is first told how to enter or participate and continues thereafter.

Note 3 to § 73.1216: This section is not applicable to licensee-conducted contests not broadcast or advertised to the general public or to a substantial segment thereof, to contests in which the general public is not requested or permitted to participate, to the commercial advertisement of non-licensee-conducted contests, or to a contest conducted by a non-broadcast division of the licensee or by a non-broadcast company related to the licensee.

[80 FR 64361, Oct. 23, 2015]

§ 73.1217 Broadcast hoaxes.

No licensee or permittee of any broadcast station shall broadcast false information concerning a crime or a catastrophe if:

(a) The licensee knows this information is false;

(b) It is foreseeable that broadcast of the information will cause substantial public harm, and

(c) Broadcast of the information does in fact directly cause substantial public harm.

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Any programming accompanied by a disclaimer will be presumed not to pose foreseeable harm if the disclaimer clearly characterizes the program as a fiction and is presented in a way that is reasonable under the circumstances.

NOTE: For purposes of this rule, “public harm” must begin immediately, and cause direct and actual damage to property or to the health or safety of the general public, or diversion of law enforcement or other public health and safety authorities from their duties. The public harm will be deemed foreseeable if the licensee could expect with a significant degree of certainty that public harm would occur. A “crime” is any act or omission that makes the offender subject to criminal punishment by law. A “catastrophe” is a disaster or imminent disaster involving violent or sudden event affecting the public.

[57 FR 28640, June 26, 1992]

§ 73.1225 Station inspections by FCC.

(a) The licensee of a broadcast station shall make the station available for inspection by representatives of the FCC during the station's business hours, or at any time it is in operation.

(b) In the course of an inspection or investigation, an FCC representative may require special equipment tests, program tests or operation with nighttime or presunrise facilities during daytime hours pursuant to § 0.314, part 0, of the FCC rules.

(c) The following records shall be made available by all broadcast stations upon request by representatives of the FCC.

(1) Equipment performance measurements required by §§ 73.1590 and 73.1690.

(2) The written designations for chief operators and, when applicable, the contracts for chief operators engaged on a contract basis.

(3) Application for modification of the transmission system made pursuant to § 73.1690(c).

(4) Informal statements or drawings depicting any transmitter modification made pursuant to § 73.1690(e).

(5) Station logs and special technical records.

(d) Commercial and noncommercial AM stations must make the following information also available upon request by representatives of the FCC.