Subpart C—Organization

Subpart D—Emergency Operations

Subpart E—Tests

AUTHORITY: 47 U.S.C. 151, 154 (i) and (o), 303(r), 544(g) and 606.

SOURCE: 59 FR 67092, Dec. 28, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General

§ 11.1 Purpose.

This part contains rules and regulations providing for an Emergency Alert System (EAS). The EAS provides the President with the capability to provide immediate communications and information to the general public at the National, State and Local Area levels during periods of national emergency. The rules in this part describe the required technical standards and operational procedures of the EAS for analog AM, FM, and TV broadcast stations, digital broadcast stations, analog cable systems, digital cable systems, wireline video systems, wireless cable systems, Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) services, Satellite Digital Audio Radio Service (SDARS), and other participating entities. The EAS may be used to provide the heads of State and local government, or their designated representatives, with a means of emergency communication with the public in their State or Local Area.

[72 FR 62132, Nov. 2, 2007]

§ 11.2 Definitions.

The definitions of terms used in part 11 are:

(a) *Primary Entry Point (PEP) System.* The PEP system is a nationwide network of broadcast stations and other entities connected with government activation points. It is used to distribute the EAN, EAT, and EAS national test messages and other EAS messages. FEMA has designated 34 of the nation's largest radio broadcast stations as PEPs. The PEPs are designated to receive the Presidential alert from FEMA and distribute it to local stations.

(b) *Local Primary One (LP–1).* The LP–1 is a radio station that acts as a key EAS monitoring source. Each LP–1 station must monitor its regional PEP station and a back-up source for Presidential messages.

(c) *EAS Participants.* Entities required under the Commission's rules to comply with EAS rules, *e.g.*, analog radio and television stations, and wired and wireless cable television systems, DBS, DTV, SDARS, digital cable and DAB, and wireline video systems.

(d) *Wireline Video System.* The system of a wireline common carrier used to provide video programming service.

(e) *Participating National (PN).* PN stations are broadcast stations that transmit EAS National, state, or local EAS messages to the public.

(f) *National Primary (NP).* Stations that are the primary entry point for Presidential messages delivered by FEMA. These stations are responsible for broadcasting a Presidential alert to the public and to State Primary stations within their broadcast range.

(g) *State Primary (SP).* Stations that are the entry point for State messages, which can originate from the Governor or a designated representative.

[72 FR 62132, Nov. 2, 2007]

§ 11.11 The Emergency Alert System (EAS).

(a) The EAS is composed of analog radio broadcast stations including AM,

FM, and Low-power FM (LPFM) stations; digital audio broadcasting (DAB) stations, including digital AM, FM, and Low-power FM stations; analog television broadcast stations including Class A television (CA) and Low-power TV (LPTV) stations; digital television (DTV) broadcast stations, including digital CA and digital LPTV stations; analog cable systems; digital cable systems which are defined for purposes of this part only as the portion of a cable system that delivers channels in digital format to subscribers at the input of a Unidirectional Digital Cable Product or other navigation device; wireline video systems; wireless cable systems which may consist of Broadband Radio Service (BRS), or Educational Broadband Service (EBS) stations; DBS services, as defined in 47 CFR 25.701(a) (including certain Ku-band Fixed-Satellite Service Direct to Home providers); SDARS, as defined in 47 CFR 25.201; participating broadcast networks, cable networks and program suppliers; and other entities and industries operating on an organized basis during emergencies at the National, State and local levels. These entities are referred to collectively as EAS Participants in this part, and are subject to this part, except as otherwise provided herein. At a minimum EAS Participants must use a common EAS protocol, as defined in § 11.31, to send and receive emergency alerts in accordance with the effective dates listed above and in the following tables:

ANALOG AND DIGITAL BROADCAST STATIONS

EAS equipment requirement	AM & FM class A TV [4]	Digital AM & FM	TV	DTV	FM class D [1]		LPTV [2]	LPFM [3]
Two-tone encoder [5]	Y [6]	Y 12/31/06	Y	Y 12/31/06	N	N	N	Y
EAS decoder	Y 1/1/97	Y 12/31/06	Y 1/1/97	Y 12/31/06	Y 1/1/97	Y 1/1/97	Y	Y
EAS encoder	Y 1/1/97	Y 12/31/06	Y 1/1/97	Y 12/31/06	N	N	N	Y
Audio message	Y 1/1/97	Y 12/31/06	Y 1/1/97	Y 12/31/06	Y 1/1/97	Y 1/1/97	Y	Y
Video message	N/A	N/A	Y 1/1/97	Y 12/31/06	N/A	Y 1/1/97	N/A	Y

[1] Effective December 31, 2006, digital FM Class D stations have the same requirements.
[2] LPTV stations that operate as television broadcast translator stations are exempt from the requirement to have EAS equipment. Effective December 31, 2006, digital LPTV stations have the same requirements.
[3] LPFM stations must install a decoder within one year after the FCC publishes in the FEDERAL REGISTER a public notice indicating that at least one decoder has been certified by the FCC. Effective December 31, 2006, digital LPFM stations have the same requirements.
[4] Effective December 31, 2006, digital Class A TV stations have the same requirements.
[5] Effective July 1, 1995, the two-tone signal must be 8–25 seconds.
[6] Effective January 1, 1998, the two-tone signal may only be used to provide audio alerts to audiences before EAS emergency messages and the required monthly tests.

ANALOG CABLE SYSTEMS

[A. Analog cable systems serving fewer than 5,000 subscribers from a headend must either provide the National level EAS message on all programmed channels including the required testing by October 1, 2002, or comply with the following EAS requirements. All other analog cable systems must comply with B.]

SYSTEM SIZE AND EFFECTIVE DATES

B. EAS equipment requirement	≥5,000 but < 10,000 subscribers	≥10,000 subscribers	<5,000 subscribers
Two-tone signal from storage device [1]	Y 12/31/98	Y 10/1/02	Y 10/1/02
EAS decoder [3]	Y 12/31/98	Y 10/1/02	Y 10/1/02
EAS encoder [2]	Y 12/31/98	Y 10/1/02	Y 10/1/02
Audio and Video EAS Message on all channels	Y 12/31/98	Y 10/1/02	N
Video interrupt and audio alert message on all channels, [3] Audio and Video EAS message on at least one channel.	N	N	Y 10/1/02

[1] Two-tone signal is only used to provide an audio alert to audience before EAS emergency messages and required monthly test. The two-tone signal must be 8–25 seconds in duration.
[2] Analog cable systems serving <5,000 subscribers are permitted to operate without an EAS encoder if they install an FCC-certified decoder.
[3] The Video interrupt must cause all channels that carry programming to flash for the duration of the EAS emergency message. The audio alert must give the channel where the EAS messages are carried and be repeated for the duration of the EAS message.
Note: Programmed channels do not include channels used for the transmission of data such as interactive games.

WIRELESS CABLE SYSTEMS (BRS/EBS STATIONS)

[A. Wireless cable systems serving fewer than 5,000 subscribers from a single transmission site must either provide the National level EAS message on all programmed channels including the required testing by October 1, 2002, or comply with the following EAS requirements. All other wireless cable systems must comply with B.]

SYSTEM SIZE AND EFFECTIVE DATES

B. EAS equipment requirement	≥5,000 subscribers	<5,000 subscribers
EAS decoder	Y 10/1/02	Y 10/1/02
EAS encoder [1,2]	Y 10/1/02	Y 10/1/02
Audio and Video EAS Message on all channels [3]	Y 10/1/02	N
Video interrupt and audio alert message on all channels; [4] Audio and Video EAS message on at least one channel.	N	Y 10/1/02

[1] The two-tone signal is used only to provide an audio alert to an audience prior to an EAS emergency message or to the Required Monthly Test (RMT) under § 11.61(a)(1). The two-tone signal must be 8–25 seconds in duration.
[2] Wireless cable systems serving <5,000 subscribers are permitted to operate without an EAS encoder if they install an FCC-certified decoder.
[3] All wireless cable systems may comply with this requirement by providing a means to switch all programmed channels to a predesignated channel that carries the required audio and video EAS messages.
[4] The Video interrupt must cause all channels that carry programming to flash for the duration of the EAS emergency message. The audio alert must give the channel where the EAS messages are carried and be repeated for the duration of the EAS message.
Note: Programmed channels do not include channels used for the transmission of data services such as Internet.

DIGITAL CABLE SYSTEMS AND WIRELINE VIDEO SYSTEMS

[A. Digital cable systems and Wireline Video Systems serving fewer than 5,000 subscribers from a headend must either provide the National level EAS message on all programmed channels including the required testing by December 31, 2006, or comply with the following EAS requirements. All other digital cable systems and Wireline Video Systems must comply with B.]

SYSTEM SIZE AND EFFECTIVE DATES

B. EAS equipment requirement	≥5,000 subscribers	<5,000 subscribers
Two-tone signal from storage device [1]	Y 12/31/06	Y 12/31/06
EAS decoder [3]	Y 12/31/06	Y 12/31/06
EAS encoder [2]	Y 12/31/06	Y 12/31/06
Audio and Video EAS Message on all channels [4]	Y 12/31/06	N
Video interrupt and audio alert message on all channels [3] Audio and Video EAS message on at least one channel.	N	Y 12/31/06

[1] Two-tone signal is only used to provide an audio alert to audience before EAS emergency messages and required monthly test. The two-tone signal must be 8–25 seconds in duration.

[2] Digital cable systems and Wireline Video Systems serving <5,000 subscribers are permitted to operate without an EAS encoder if they install an FCC-certified decoder.

[3] The Video interrupt must cause all channels that carry programming to flash for the duration of the EAS emergency message. The audio alert must give the channel where the EAS messages are carried and be repeated for the duration of the EAS message.

[4] All digital cable systems and/Wireline Video Systems may comply with this requirement by providing a means to switch all programmed channels to a predesignated channel that carries the required audio and video EAS messages.

Note: Programmed channels do not include channels used for the transmission of data such as interactive games or the transmission of data services such as Internet.

SDARS AND DBS

EAS equipment requirement	SDARS	DBS
Two-tone signal [1]	Y 12/31/06	Y 5/31/07
EAS decoder	Y 12/31/06	Y 5/31/07
EAS encoder	Y 12/31/06	Y 5/31/07
Audio message on all channels [2]	Y 12/31/06	Y 5/31/07
Video message on all channels [2]	N/A	Y 5/31/07

[1] Two-tone signal is only used to provide an audio alert to audience before EAS emergency messages and required monthly test. The two-tone signal must be 8–25 seconds in duration.

[2] All SDARS and DBS providers may comply with this requirement by providing a means to switch all programmed channels to a predesignated channel that carries the required audio and video EAS messages or by any other method that ensures that viewers of all channels receive the EAS message.

(b) Analog class D non-commercial educational FM stations as defined in § 73.506 of this chapter, digital class D non-commercial educational FM stations, analog LPFM stations as defined in §§ 73.811 and 73.853 of this chapter, digital LPFM stations, analog LPTV stations as defined in § 74.701(f), and digital LPTV stations as defined in § 74.701(k) of this chapter are not required to comply with § 11.32. Analog and digital LPTV stations that operate as television broadcast translator stations, as defined in § 74.701(b) of this chapter, are not required to comply with the requirements of this part. FM broadcast booster stations as defined in § 74.1201(f) of this chapter and FM translator stations as defined in § 74.1201(a) of this chapter which entirely rebroadcast the programming of other local FM broadcast stations are not required to comply with the requirements of this part. International broadcast stations as defined in § 73.701 of this chapter are not required to comply with the requirements of this part. Analog and digital broadcast stations that operate as satellites or repeaters of a hub station (or common studio or control point if there is no hub station) and rebroadcast 100 percent of the programming of the hub station (or common studio or control point) may satisfy the requirements of this part through the use of a single set of EAS equipment at the hub station (or common studio or control point) which complies with §§ 11.32 and 11.33.

(c) For purposes of the EAS, Broadband Radio Service (BRS) and Educational Broadband Service (EBS) stations operated as part of wireless cable systems in accordance with subpart M of part 27 of this chapter are defined as follows:

(1) A ''wireless cable system'' is a collection of channels in the BRS or EBS used to provide video programming services to subscribers. The channels may be licensed to or leased by the wireless cable system operator.

(2) A ''wireless cable operator'' is the entity that has acquired the right to use the channels of a wireless cable system for transmission of programming to subscribers.

(d) Local franchise authorities and cable television system operators may enter into mutual agreements that require the installation of EAS equipment before the required dates listed in the tables in paragraph (a). Additionally, local franchise authorities may use any EAS codes authorized by the FCC in any agreements.

(e) Other technologies and public service providers, such as low earth orbiting satellites, that wish to participate in the EAS may contact the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau or their State Emergency Communications Committee for information and guidance.

[63 FR 29662, June 1, 1998, as amended at 65 FR 7639, Feb. 15, 2000; 65 FR 21657, Apr. 24, 2000; 65 FR 30001, May 10, 2000; 65 FR 34406, May 30, 2000; 67 FR 18506, Apr. 16, 2002; 69 FR 72031, Dec. 10, 2004; 70 FR 19315, Apr. 13, 2005; 70 FR 71031, Nov. 25, 2005; 71 FR 76220, Dec. 20, 2006; 72 FR 62132, Nov. 2, 2007]

§ 11.12 Two-tone Attention Signal encoder and decoder.

Existing two-tone Attention Signal encoder and decoder equipment type accepted for use as Emergency Broadcast System equipment under part 73 of this chapter may be used by broadcast stations until January 1, 1998, provided that such equipment meets the requirements of § 11.32(a)(9) and 11.33(b). Effective January 1, 1998, the two-tone Attention Signal decoder will no longer be required and the two-tone Attention Signal will be used to provide an audio alert.

[60 FR 55999, Nov. 6, 1995]

§ 11.13 Emergency Action Notification (EAN) and Emergency Action Termination (EAT).

(a) The Emergency Action Notification (EAN) is the notice to all EAS Participants and to the general public that the EAS has been activated for a national emergency.

(b) The Emergency Action Termination (EAT) is the notice to all EAS Participants and to the general public that the EAN has terminated.

[70 FR 71033, Nov. 25, 2005]

§ 11.14 Primary Entry Point (PEP) System.

The PEP system is a nationwide network of broadcast stations and other entities connected with government activation points. It is used to distribute the EAN, EAT and EAS national test messages, and other EAS messages.

[67 FR 18507, Apr. 16, 2002]

§ 11.15 EAS Operating Handbook.

The EAS Operating Handbook states in summary form the actions to be taken by personnel at EAS Participant facilities upon receipt of an EAN, an EAT, tests, or State and Local Area alerts. It is issued by the FCC and contains instructions for the above situations. A copy of the Handbook must be located at normal duty positions or EAS equipment locations when an operator is required to be on duty and be immediately available to staff responsible for authenticating messages and initiating actions.

[70 FR 71033, Nov. 25, 2005]

§ 11.16 National Control Point Procedures.

The National Control Point Procedures are written instructions issued by the FCC to national level EAS control points. The procedures are divided into sections as follows:

(a) *National Level EAS Activation*. This section contains the activation and termination instructions for Presidential messages.

(b) *EAS Test Transmissions*. This section contains the instructions for testing the EAS at the National level.

(c) *National Information Center (NIC)*. This section contains instructions for distributing United States Government official information messages after completion of the National Level EAS activation and termination actions.

[59 FR 67092, Dec. 28, 1994, as amended at 67 FR 18508, Apr. 16, 2002]

§ 11.18 EAS Designations.

(a) National Primary (NP) is a source of EAS Presidential messages.

(b) Local Primary (LP) is a source of EAS Local Area messages. An LP source is responsible for coordinating