

## *How do I?*

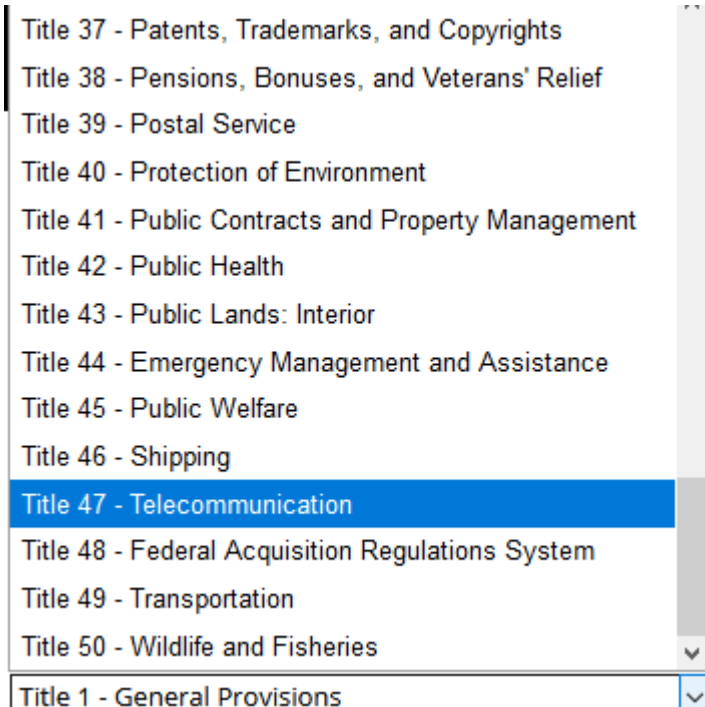
### *An occasional series*

#### *This week: The FCC; Do you know Part 97?*

Part of my day job requires me to be very familiar with the Code of Federal Regulations or *CFRs*. Federal regulation of the airwaves has a long history predating WWI. Many times various government elements fought desperately to end amateur radio operation. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) was created by the Communications Act of 1934 and combined the functions of the Federal Radio Commission and the wire (telephone and telegraph) regulation responsibilities of the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC).

Why do the rules matter? When you applied for, received and then signed your amateur radio license, you acknowledged knowing and being familiar with *all* of the Part 97 rules! Part 97 derives its name from the portion of the CFRs that regulates communication.

The Federal Regulations are published in the *Federal Register* and can be found on line at <https://www.ecfr.gov>. Once there, browse the various titles until you come to Title 47- Telecommunications.



Title 37 - Patents, Trademarks, and Copyrights
Title 38 - Pensions, Bonuses, and Veterans' Relief
Title 39 - Postal Service
Title 40 - Protection of Environment
Title 41 - Public Contracts and Property Management
Title 42 - Public Health
Title 43 - Public Lands: Interior
Title 44 - Emergency Management and Assistance
Title 45 - Public Welfare
Title 46 - Shipping
Title 47 - Telecommunication
Title 48 - Federal Acquisition Regulations System
Title 49 - Transportation
Title 50 - Wildlife and Fisheries
Title 1 - General Provisions

The CFRs are divided into Titles. Some of the other Titles are 49-Transportation, 46-shipping, 10- Energy and 12-Banks and Banking. Each Title, just like books on a book shelf, is divided into Volumes, Chapters and Parts.

Title 47 has all of these

**e-CFR data is current as of February 18, 2021**

Title	Volume	Chapter	Browse Parts	Regulatory Entity
<b>Title 47 Telecommunication</b>	1	I	<a href="#">0-19</a>	FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
	2		<a href="#">20-39</a>	
	3		<a href="#">40-69</a>	
	4		<a href="#">70-79</a>	
	5		<a href="#">80-199</a>	
		II	<a href="#">200-299</a>	OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
		III	<a href="#">300-399</a>	NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
		IV	<a href="#">400-499</a>	NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
		V	<a href="#">500-599</a>	THE FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY

If you click on the hyperlink for the part you want, you can read the online version. I prefer to work with print editions as it seems easier to find stuff, then once I know what I am looking for, go to the online version to see the current regulation.

If we look at the above, nothing says Amateur Radio. If we click on Parts 0-19, A partial view seems devoted to the organization and operation of the Commission. If we know, or Google, we find we want to click on Part 80-101

TITLE 47—Telecommunication

CHAPTER I—FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

SUBCHAPTER A—GENERAL

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<b>Part</b>	<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>Headings</b>
0	0.1 to 0.701	COMMISSION ORGANIZATION
1	1.1 to 1.50007	PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE
2	2.1 to 2.1400	FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS AND RADIO TREATY MATTERS; GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
3	3.1 to 3.76	AUTHORIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF ACCOUNTING AUTHORITIES IN MARITIME AND MARITIME MOBILE-SATELLITE RADIO SERVICES
4	4.1 to 4.15	DISRUPTIONS TO COMMUNICATIONS
5	5.1 to 5.705	EXPERIMENTAL RADIO SERVICE
6	6.1 to 6.16	ACCESS TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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CHAPTER I—FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (CONTINUED)

SUBCHAPTER D—SAFETY AND SPECIAL RADIO SERVICES

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<b>Part</b>	<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>Headings</b>
80	80.1 to 80.1252	STATIONS IN THE MARITIME SERVICES
87	87.1 to 87.529	AVIATION SERVICES
90	90.1 to 90.1338	PRIVATE LAND MOBILE RADIO SERVICES
94		[RESERVED]
95	95.100 to 95.3385	PERSONAL RADIO SERVICES
96	96.1 to 96.67	CITIZENS BROADBAND RADIO SERVICE
97	97.1 to 97.527	AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE
101	101.1 to 101.1527	FIXED MICROWAVE SERVICES
102-199		[RESERVED]

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Bingo! Part 97 Amateur Radio Service

If we click on 97.1 to 97.527  
A partial view gives us:

TITLE 47—Telecommunication

CHAPTER I—FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (CONTINUED)

SUBCHAPTER D—SAFETY AND SPECIAL RADIO SERVICES

PART 97—AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

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Subpart A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

§97.1	Basis and purpose.
§97.3	Definitions.
§97.5	Station license required.
§97.7	Control operator required.
§97.9	Operator license grant.
§97.11	Stations aboard ships or aircraft.
§97.13	Restrictions on station location.
§97.15	Station antenna structures.
§97.17	Application for new license grant.
§97.19	Application for a vanity call sign.
§97.21	Application for a modified or renewed license grant.

Notice the decimals are treated as numbers: ie: 97.11 is after 97.9, not 97.1.

Subpart A provides the legal standing to regulate the Amateur Radio Service and covers station location and licensing.

Subpart B is about operating your station

Subpart C covers Special Operations, including 97.203 Beacon Stations, 97.205 Repeater Stations and 97.215 Telecommand of Model Craft.

Subpart D Technical Standards grants us bands, emission types, power standards, etc.

Subpart E Emergency Communications

Subpart F covers examinations and the Volunteer Exam Coordinators and the Volunteer Examiners who provide test sessions and perform the actual testing.

Think you can hide? Check out Appendix 1 to Part 97

[Title 47](#) → [Chapter I](#) → [Subchapter D](#) → [Part 97](#) → [Subpart F](#) → [Appendix](#)

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[Browse Next](#)

Title 47: Telecommunication

[PART 97—AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE](#)

[Subpart F—Qualifying Examination Systems](#)

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#### APPENDIX 1 TO PART 97—PLACES WHERE THE AMATEUR SERVICE IS REGULATED BY THE FCC

In ITU Region 2, the amateur service is regulated by the FCC within the territorial limits of the 50 United States, District of Columbia, Caribbean Insular areas [Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, United States Virgin Islands (50 islets and cays) and Navassa Island], and Johnston Island (Islets East, Johnston, North and Sand) and Midway Island (Islets Eastern and Sand) in the Pacific Insular areas.

In ITU Region 3, the amateur service is regulated by the FCC within the Pacific Insular territorial limits of American Samoa (seven islands), Baker Island, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam Island, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Kingman Reef, Palmyra Island (more than 50 islets) and Wake Island (Islets Peale, Wake and Wilkes).

Part 97 is actually very short. The parts of Title 49 I work with in my day job typically require a several hundred page book for just parts 300-399 and a book about twice as thick for 200-299 and twice as thick again for 100-177 and 178-199. In some versions, 100-177 and 178-199 each require their own book.

Catch 'ya on the air!