

# **New Frequency Coordination Rules for Broadcast Auxiliaries**

By: [Joan Stewart](#)

Date: October 2, 2003

On October 16, 2003, the final part of the order implementing revisions to the Broadcast Auxiliary Service Rules in Part 74 of the Commission's rules will go into effect. The final part of the Order involves changes to the frequency coordination procedures for broadcast auxiliaries (such as studio transmitter links, remote pickup units, TV Intercity Relays, etc.). Under the previous rules, frequency coordination was the responsibility of the applicant and no certification of frequency coordination was required to be submitted to the FCC. Under the new rules, all fixed stations, except those in the 1990-2110 band, must use the frequency coordination procedures outlined in Section 101.103(d) of the Commission's rules (see brief description below). Frequency coordination requirements for mobile auxiliaries continue to require Section 101 coordination for the 6425-6525 MHz and 17.7-19.7 GHz bands. Either Section 101 or local coordination can be used for mobile operations in the 2450-2483.5 MHz, 6875-125MHz bands.

Frequency coordination for fixed services in the 1990-2100 MHz band (primarily used by TV STLs) can continue to be done at the local level. The Commission has delayed implementation of the frequency coordination portion of the rules until October 16, 2003 to allow licensees the opportunity to update the information contained in ULS for each auxiliary license. In order for the new frequency coordination rules to work, it is essential that frequency information for each auxiliary licensed to you is correct in ULS. If the information for your auxiliaries is incomplete, you will not be appropriately protected when new applicants use ULS information for frequency coordination.

Be forewarned, the Section 101 frequency coordination process is more time consuming (and expensive) than the frequency coordination done at the location level. Section 101 frequency coordination requires a three-step process: 1) analysis of interference; 2) notification to existing licensees and applicants that may be affected; and 3) evaluation of responses from those licensees and applicants. This process can take from 45 to 180 days (and sometimes longer), depending on the type of interference issues that arise and whether they can be resolved.

In order for the new frequency coordination process to protect your existing licenses, your licenses must contain complete and correct information in the FCC's Universal Licensing System ("ULS") database. You can review your auxiliary licenses on-line by accessing the ULS database at: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>. The search engine will allow you to search by licensee name, call sign name or FRN. If any of your licenses are missing vital information such as frequency, coordinates, etc., please contact us as soon as possible to discuss updating these licenses before the October 16, 2003 deadline.