

Broadcast Newsletter

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JUNE 2026



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FCC ADOPTS ORDER MANDATING EAS EQUIPMENT SECURITY

On June 25, 2026, the FCC voted to require EAS equipment users to protect against hijacking by cybercriminals and adversaries by using strong passwords, promptly testing and installing security patches issued by equipment manufacturers, and using a network firewall or comparable practice to better limit access to their equipment.

A [news release](#) summarized the action, and the [Order](#) itself provides important details. While most broadcast stations are already following prudent practices to protect EAS equipment, each station should now determine whether current practices are already compliant or need to be modified.

Under the new rule, EAS Participants are required to employ the following security controls with respect to EAS equipment, studio transmitter link equipment, and any remotely managed equipment that routes, processes, or inserts content into the transmission of the EAS Participant's programming:

(1) Prior to any use to broadcast to the public, EAS Participants must change any default password, use strong passwords, and change any password if the EAS Participant has reason to believe that the password has been compromised. A strong password is any password that has a minimum of 15 characters and does not use dictionary words. Instead of using a strong password, EAS Participants may use alternative authentication measures, such as look-up secrets, out-of-band devices, single- or multi-factor one-time password devices, or single- or multi-factor cryptographic authentication, that are reasonably sufficient to mitigate the risk of unauthorized access. Passwords employed to comply with this requirement may not be reused for the EAS Participant's other accounts, equipment, applications, or services.

(2) Install security patches and security-related software and firmware updates issued by equipment manufacturers promptly after those patches or upgrades become available. Security patches and security related software and firmware updates issued by equipment manufacturers may be tested before they are installed, provided that the testing begins promptly and is completed in a timeframe that is consistent with industry best practices.

(3) Use a network firewall or comparable network segmentation practice that limits remote management access to authorized devices and authorized users.

The effective date of the new rule will probably be in September.

FCC ANNOUNCES NONCOMMERCIAL FM TRANSLATOR FILING WINDOW

The FCC has [announced](#) the dates, procedures and requirements for the 2026 NCE FM Translator filing window, which will **open August 11, 2026 at 12:01 am ET and close on August 25, 2026 at 6pm ET**.

Applications filed during the window must be electronically submitted in LMS using the Form 2100, Schedule 349 FM translator construction permit application, which will first become available on July 1, 2026. The Notice and application [instructions](#) will govern application completion requirements.

To qualify for filing window participation, applicants must already be licensee of the proposed FM translator's primary station and may only have attributable interests in 10 applications filed in the window. Applications filed during the window will not be visible to other applicants until the end of the filing window, which will avoid predatory filings. Because the authorizations are noncommercial, there is no application filing fee.

FM translator applications proposing a 1 mV/m coverage contour entirely within the protected contour of its NCE primary station will be prioritized and granted over any other conflicting application

that extends beyond the protected contour of its primary station. For all other applications that conflict with/or mutually exclusive with other applications proposing the same service (i.e., 'fill-in' or 'non-fill-in') the FCC will use a points system and tiebreakers to determine who will be awarded the permit.

The point system is the same one used for full power NCE FM radio stations. A total of 7 points may be awarded – 3 points for an established local applicant, 2 points for diversity of ownership or state-wide network, and up to two points for technical superiority. Tie-breakers are applied sequentially using existing radio station authorizations, then number of pending radio station applications, and then first-filed applications. All claimed points must be supported by documentation submitted with the application or the claimed points will not be awarded.

Any permits granted in the window will be subject to a 4-year holding period prohibiting a change in primary station or a sale of the translator without the primary station.

The FCC is implementing a limited filing freeze beginning July 10, 2026 on all LPFM, FM translator and FM booster station minor mod applications, which will continue through the close of the filing window. So, if you were thinking of filing to modify an existing LPFM, FM translator or FM booster station, the clock is ticking.

2027 FM RADIO AUCTION

On May 11, 2026, the FCC announced an auction for certain specified FM station construction permits and scheduled it for February 2, 2027. A public notice seeking comment on the auction procedures can be found [here](#), with comments due June 9. A [filing freeze](#) related to the allotted FM facilities went into effect on May 11. The auction has been designated Auction 114.

A total of 132 construction permits will be included in the auction. You can review a list of the permits [here](#), including preliminary upfront bidding amounts. Some of the permits were included in prior auctions but received no bids. The upfront

bidding amounts for those permits have been lowered in the proposed rulemaking for Auction 114.

There are a few proposed tweaks to the auction bidding rules, including a proposal not to make applicant upfront bidding credit amounts public or the name of the highest bidder after each bidding round. Those changes will limit bidding activity which may be intended to block a particular applicant or make a known bidder's effort to obtain a permit more expensive.

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 10, 2026

TV, Class A, AM & FM Stations (commercial & noncommercial): Deadline to complete and upload to online public file the 2nd Quarter 2026 issues/program lists and any foreign sponsorship identification reports

Class A TV Stations Only: Deadline to complete and post to your online public file the 2nd Quarter 2026 certification of ongoing Class A eligibility

Noncommercial Broadcast Stations: Deadline to complete and post to your online public file the 2nd Quarter 2026 report for any 3rd Party Fundraising conducted during the quarter

LPFM, FM translator and FM Booster Stations: Minor modification filing freeze begins and will continue until 6p ET on August 25, 2026

August 1, 2026

Radio and TV Stations located in North Carolina, South Carolina, Illinois, Wisconsin and California: if five (5) full time employee threshold is met, prepare EEO public file report covering the period from August 1, 2025 to July 31, 2026, upload it to the station online public inspection file and post it on the station website

Mid-Term EEO Reviews for Radio stations have ended because all radio stations are now beyond the mid-point of their current 8-year license renewal term. License renewal

applications for radio stations in the District of Colombia, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia will be due in one year on June 1, 2027

Mid-Term EEO Review for Television stations located in California: if station employment unit has **five (5) or more full-time employees**, an independent **mid-term EEO review** of the station's last two EEO public file reports by the FCC will occur in connection with your upload of the 2025-26 EEO public file report due August 1. By uploading an EEO public file report, the FCC automatically knows that the television station meets the 5 or more full-time employee threshold for a mid-term review. So unlike for radio, there is no OPIF mechanism available or needed for TV stations to specify the number of SEU employees

August 11, 2026

Noncommercial FM Translator filing window opens at 12:01 am ET.

August 25, 2026

Noncommercial FM Translator filing window closes at 6p ET.

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Actual resolution of legal issues depends upon many factors, including variations of facts and applicable Federal laws. This publication is not intended to provide legal advice on specific subjects, rather, it seeks to provide insight into legal developments and issues that we feel could be useful to our clients and friends.

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