

What Part Of The FCC Rules Does Ham Radio Come Under?

RCC Aug 2006 – Dick/N6ZQ

If you said Part 97, you're right (almost). But 97 directly references Part 2 and implies Parts 0 and 1. You have read 97, haven't you? Thought so...

Parts 0, 1 and 2 are sort of the 'housekeeping' rules which apply equally to all services including the Amateur Radio service. They are written in a form that only a lawyer could love but we need to be aware of what's in there.

For instance: .0.406 Persons having business with the Commission should familiarize themselves with those portions of its rules and regulations pertinent to such business. All of the rules are published and are readily available. And it goes on.

So, what is 'familiar'? If you aren't on the low bands, then you don't have to really know the specific frequency assignments, do you? Just knowing that the assignments exist should be enough until you decide to get on those bands and then you must know exactly what they are. But you need an up-to-date copy of Part 97 to become familiar with individually. Is there a better way?

Of course. .. And it's free! Go to www.arrl.org, then Services, then Regulatory Info, then FCC rules. Scroll down the page and there it is, in four downloadable flavors. Since my Magoo genes tend to kick in in my old age, I don't like things closetogether. So, I use the Word version. I change it so that most spacing is 1.5 lines and try to repaginate it so that most sections end on one page (some are too long to do this). Caveat: there are several tables that are happiest in their native single spacing. Parts 0, 1 and 2 are there also at no additional charge to you. (Just tell them that ZedQ sent you.)

Many sections change very little. You can copy and paste any changes. But some have great changes, such as the 1991 Codeless Tech and the 2000 three classes and 5 WPM code. And some never change, such as 97.1, which started out as 12.0 in 1951 under the old coding and has not changed a single word in all that time. This is the Basis and Purpose section.

When I finished, I accessed Word's analysis tool and found that there are 17,733 words in 825 paragraphs. The document's readability is rated at 12.0 on the Flesch- Kincade Grade Level.

By having to go through the whole document to make your changes, you'll have a much better understanding of what's expected of you in ham radio and maybe save yourself a 'Riley-gram'. It's well beyond what is in the writtens. You can go to the Radio Amateurs of Canada www.rac.ca and read their RIC series. www.rsgb.org will lead you to BR-68, which is written in veddy veddy British. See how other countries do ham radio. If you speak another language, please look up something in those countries.