§ 73.155 Periodic directional antenna performance recertification.

A station licensed with a directional antenna pattern pursuant to a proof of performance using moment method modeling and internal array parameters as described in §73.151(c) shall recertify the performance of that directional antenna pattern at least once within every 24 month period.

(a) Measurements shall be made to verify the continuing integrity of the antenna monitor sampling system.

(1) For towers using base current or base voltage sampling derived at the output of the antenna coupling and matching equipment, the sampling devices shall be disconnected and calibrated by measuring their outputs with a common reference signal (a current through them or a voltage across them, as appropriate) and the calibration must agree with the manufacturer’s specifications.

(2) For towers having sampling loops, measurements shall be made at carrier frequency or, if necessary, at nearby frequencies where the magnitude of the measured impedance is no greater than 200 ohms with the sampling loops connected. The frequencies measured must be the same as were measured in the most recent proof of performance and the measured impedances must agree within ±2 ohms and ±4 percent resistance and reactance of the proof values.

(b) Field strength measurements shall be made at the reference field strength measurement locations that were established by the most recent proof of performance. If locations have become inaccessible or their readings contaminated by localized electromagnetic environmental changes, new locations that meet the requirements of the moment method proof of performance rules in §73.151(c)(3) shall be established to replace them.

(c) The results of the periodic directional antenna performance recertification measurements shall be retained in the station’s public inspection file.

§ 73.157 Antenna testing during daytime.

(a) The licensee of a station using a directional antenna during daytime or nighttime hours may, without further authority, operate during daytime hours with the licensed nighttime directional facilities or with a nondirectional antenna when conducting monitoring point field strength measurements or antenna proof of performance measurements.

(b) Operation pursuant to this section is subject to the following conditions:

(1) No harmful interference will be caused to any other station.

(2) The FCC may notify the licensee to modify or cease such operation to resolve interference complaints or when such action may appear to be in the public interest, convenience and necessity.

(3) Such operation shall be undertaken only for the purpose of taking
monitoring point field strength measurements or antenna proof of performance measurements, and shall be restricted to the minimum time required to accomplish the measurements.

(4) Operating power in the nondirectional mode shall be adjusted to the same power as was utilized for the most recent nondirectional proof of performance covering the licensed facilities.

[50 FR 30947, July 31, 1985]

§ 73.158 Directional antenna monitoring points.

(a) When a licensee of a station using a directional antenna system finds that a field monitoring point, as specified on the station authorization, is no longer accessible or is unsuitable because of nearby construction or other disturbances to the measured field, an application to change the monitoring point location, including FCC Form 302–AM, is to be promptly submitted to the FCC in Washington, DC.

(1) If the monitoring point has become inaccessible or otherwise unsuitable, but there has been no significant construction or other change in the vicinity of the monitoring point which may affect field strength readings, the licensee shall select a new monitoring point from the points measured in the last full proof of performance. A recent field strength measurement at the new monitoring point shall also be provided.

(2) Alternatively, if changes in the electromagnetic environment have affected field strength readings at the monitoring point, the licensee shall submit the results of a partial proof of performance, analyzed in accordance with §73.154, on the affected radial.

(3) The licensee shall submit an accurate, written description of the new monitoring point in relation to nearby permanent landmarks.

(4) The licensee shall submit a photograph showing the new monitoring point in relation to nearby permanent landmarks that can be used in locating the point accurately at all times throughout the year. Do not use seasonal or temporary features in either the written descriptions or photographs as landmarks for locating field points.

(b) When the description of the monitoring point as shown on the station license is no longer correct due to road or building construction or other changes, the licensee must prepare and file with the FCC, in Washington, DC, a request for a corrected station license showing the new monitoring point description. The request shall include the information specified in paragraphs (a)(3) and (a)(4) of this section, and a copy of the station’s current license. A copy of the description is to be posted with the existing station license.

[66 FR 20757, Apr. 25, 2001]

§ 73.160 Vertical plane radiation characteristics, \( f(\theta) \).

(a) The vertical plane radiation characteristics show the relative field being radiated at a given vertical angle, with respect to the horizontal plane. The vertical angle, represented as \( \theta \), is 0 degrees in the horizontal plane, and 90 degrees when perpendicular to the horizontal plane. The vertical plane radiation characteristic is referred to as \( f(\theta) \). The generic formula for \( f(\theta) \) is:

\[
 f(\theta) = \frac{E(\theta)}{E(0)}
\]

where:

- \( E(\theta) \) is the radiation from the tower at angle \( \theta \).
- \( E(0) \) is the radiation from the tower in the horizontal plane.

(b) Listed below are formulas for \( f(\theta) \) for several common towers.

(1) For a typical tower, which is not top-loaded or sectionalized, the following formula shall be used:

\[
 f(\theta) = \frac{\cos(G \sin \theta) - \cos G}{(1 - \cos G) \cos \theta}
\]

where:

- \( G \) is the electrical height of the tower, not including the base insulator and pier. (In the case of a folded unipole tower, the entire radiating structure’s electrical height is used.)

(2) For a top-loaded tower, the following formula shall be used: