§ 13.1 Basis and purpose.

(a) Basis. The basis for the rules contained in this part is the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and applicable treaties and agreements to which the United States is a party.

(b) Purpose. The purpose of the rules in this part is to prescribe the manner and conditions under which commercial radio operators are licensed by the Commission.

§ 13.3 Definitions.

The definitions of terms used in part 13 are:

(a) COLEM. Commercial operator license examination manager.

(b) Commercial radio operator. A person holding a license or licenses specified in §13.7(b).

(c) GMDSS. Global Maritime Distress and Safety System.

(d) FCC. Federal Communications Commission.

(e) International Morse Code. A dot-dash code as defined in International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT) Recommendation F.1 (1984), Division B.1 Morse code.

(f) ITU. International Telecommunication Union.

(g) PPC. Proof-of-Passing Certificate.

(h) Question pool. All current examination questions for a designated written examination element.

(i) Question set. A series of examination questions on a given examination selected from the current question pool.

(j) Radio Regulations. The latest ITU Radio Regulations to which the United States is a party.

§ 13.5 Licensed commercial radio operator required.

Rules that require FCC station licensees to have certain transmitter operation, maintenance, and repair duties performed by a commercial radio operator are contained in parts 23, 80, and 87 of this chapter.

[63 FR 68942, Dec. 14, 1998]

§ 13.7 Classification of operator licenses and endorsements.

(a) Commercial radio operator licenses issued by the FCC are classified in accordance with the Radio Regulations of the ITU.

(b) There are eleven types of commercial radio operator licenses, certificates, and permits (licenses). The license’s ITU classification, if different from its name, is given in parentheses.

1. First Class Radiotelegraph Operator’s Certificate.

2. Second Class Radiotelegraph Operator’s Certificate.

3. Third Class Radiotelegraph Operator’s Certificate (radiotelegraph operator’s special certificate).

4. General Radiotelephone Operator License (radiotelephone operator’s general certificate).


6. Restricted Radiotelephone Operator Permit (radiotelephone operator’s restricted certificate).


8. GMDSS Radio Operator’s License (general operator’s certificate).

9. Restricted GMDSS Radio Operator’s License (restricted operator’s certificate).

10. GMDSS Radio Maintainer’s License (technical portion of the first-class radio electronic certificate).

11. GMDSS Radio Operator/Maintainer License (general operator’s certificate/technical portion of the first-class radio electronic certificate).

(c) There are six license endorsements affixed by the FCC to provide special authorizations or restrictions. Endorsements may be affixed to the license(s) indicated in parenthesis.

1. Ship Radar Endorsement (First and Second Class Radiotelegraph Operator’s Certificates, General Radiotelephone Operator License, GMDSS Radio Maintainer’s License).

2. Six Months Service Endorsement (First and Second Class Radiotelegraph Operator’s License).

3. Restrictive endorsements relating to physical handicaps, English language or literacy waivers, or other matters (all licenses).

4. Marine Radio Operator Permits shall bear the following endorsement:
§ 13.8 Authority conveyed.

Licenses, certificates and permits issued under this part convey authority for the operating privileges of other licenses, certificates, and permits issued under this part as specified below:

(a) First Class Radiotelegraph Operator’s Certificate conveys all of the operating authority of the Second Class Radiotelegraph Operator’s Certificate, the Third Class Radiotelegraph Operator’s Certificate, the Restricted Radiotelephone Operator Permit, and the Marine Radio Operator Permit.

(b) A Second Class Radiotelegraph Operator’s Certificate conveys all of the operating authority of the Third Class Radiotelegraph Operator’s Certificate, the Restricted Radiotelephone Operator Permit, and the Marine Radio Operator Permit.

(c) A Third Class Radiotelegraph Operator’s Certificate conveys all of the operating authority of the Restricted Radiotelephone Operator Permit and the Marine Radio Operator Permit.