

**Consensus Protocol for Frequency Coordination
on 90.35(c) Central Station Frequencies**

**WP Docket No. 16-261- Amendment of the Commission's Rules
to Improve Access to Private Land Mobile Radio Spectrum**

Pursuant to the Commission's *Report and Order and Order* in the above-referenced docket,¹ the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC), of which every Part 90 Federal Communication Commission (FCC)-certified frequency advisory committee is a member, has adopted the attached "Consensus Protocol for 90.35(c) Central Station Frequency Coordination". This Consensus Protocol, which shall be provided to the FCC for informational purposes and which shall also be posted for public inspection on the Land Mobile Communication Council (LMCC) web site, shall serve to ensure an efficient coordination process. It is understood that until revised Rule Section 90.175 is approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), as announced by further Public Notice, the FCC will not accept applications by non-central station eligibles for facilities on the frequencies in question.

In advance of such effective date, the LMCC will post the protocol on its website (www.lmcc.org), in order to enhance industry awareness of the FCC rule changes and the spectrum opportunity for both central station and non-central station systems. For administrative purposes, The Monitoring Association ("TMA", formerly CSAA) shall not accept concurrence requests regarding use of central station channels for non-central station operations until fifteen (15) business days after the effective date of revised Rule Section 90.175, starting at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time (July 15, 2019). TMA shall process concurrence requests in order of receipt, as shown by the unique time and date stamp shown by the concurrence submission process established by TMA. For this reason, coordinators shall separately submit to TMA each request for concurrence to the use of a central station frequency in a particular geographic area, rather than "batch filing" such requests.

¹ In the Matter of Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules to Improve Access to Private Land Mobile Radio Spectrum, WP Docket No. 16-261, *Report and Order and Order*, __ FCC Rcd ___, FCC 18-143 (Released October 22, 2018) ("Order").

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General Procedures

This protocol represents a consensus among the LMCC members that coordinate Industrial/Business Pool applications, for the coordination of non-central station operations using the central station alarm frequencies designated by reference to Rule Sections 90.35(c)(63) through (66).

High Power Voice Channels

The central station high power voice channels (460.900, 465.900, 460.925, 465.925, 460.950, 465.950, 460.975, 465.975, 461.000 and 466.000 MHz) will be available for all Part 90 Industrial/Business Pool applicants, upon approval by OMB (and further Public Notice of such approval) of the changes to the frequency coordination protocols of Rule Section 90.175 adopted in the Order. Applicants shall seek concurrence from TMA for use of these channels, and will ensure that incumbent central station alarm operations will be protected from interference in accordance with the FCC's rules and the coordination protocol below. Pursuant to this protection protocol, non-central station applicants will demonstrate that the proposed 21 dbuVm interference contour will not overlap the incumbent central station licensee's area of operation, as reflected on its license. The applicant will also protect fixed alarm radios at protected premises (which are classified as "mobiles" under Rule Section 90.267) from mobile-only licensees on the central station voice channels. To the extent that information about premises protected by central station operations is utilized in assessing the potential for interference, such information will be treated as confidential by all coordinators.

Incumbent central station systems will be protected as if licensed for primary voice and/or data as station class FB8, within the licensed service area, even if operating in conventional mode and/or for alarm signaling only.

Due to the scarcity in many urban areas of UHF voice channels suitable for exclusive use, applicants will be coordinated for use of only one central station channel in a geographic area. Priority will be given to FB8 proposals, since shared use operations can generally be accommodated on other spectrum. A second channel in the same area will not be coordinated until after the grant, construction, and filing of the required construction notification for the first channel. For purposes of this protocol, a "second channel" request will be a proposed operation the 39 dBu contour of which would overlap the 39 dBu contour of a central station frequency granted to the same (or related) applicant, which has not yet been rendered operational. Non-central station trunked systems will be subject to the requirements of FCC Rule Section 90.187 with regard to co-channel non-central station licenses.

Alarm Data Operations Co-primary

Coordination of non-central station operations on any of the central station voice channels will recognize data use by a neighboring central station as a co-primary use, and protect such operation accordingly.

Low-power Group D Channels

Applicants shall seek concurrence from TMA for use of any of the 12.5 kHz and/or 6.25 kHz low-power Group D Channels designated for central station use, as currently designated by Rule Sections 90.35(c)(63), (65), (66), (83) and (87), as applicable and Rule Section 90.267(f)(5). Central station alarm signaling on these frequencies are co-primary with regard to co-channel or adjacent channel base, mobile or data operations. Outside the urban areas described in §90.35(c)(63), Group D frequencies subject to § 90.35(c)(63) are available for general Industrial/Business use on a coordinated basis, pursuant to § 90.35(b)(2) and § 90.175(b). Concurrence may be denied when a grant of the underlying application would have a demonstrable, material, adverse effect on safety, including potential interference to existing or proposed alarm operations. Because of the demonstrated adverse effects of voice and other incompatible operations on co-channel and adjacent channel alarm signaling, and the limited number of central station signaling channels, non-central station operations will whenever possible be coordinated on channels in the Low Power Pool other than Group D Channels. In evaluating a concurrence request for use of a Group D central station frequency, TMA shall evaluate the applicant's showing of interference protection to incumbent central station licensees.

Non-central station applicants will demonstrate that the proposed 21 dbuVm interference contour will not overlap the incumbent central station licensee's area of operation, as reflected on its license. Since alarm radios licensed on Group D channels are classified as "mobiles" under Rule Section 90.267, non-central station applicants will protect fixed alarm radios at protected premises from all proposed operations, including mobile-only operations on the central station channels. To the extent that information about premises protected by central station operations is utilized in assessing the potential for interference, such information will be treated as confidential by all coordinators.

Frequency Coordination Process

Subject to the provisions of the central station protocol set forth above:

Step 1 – If the distance between a non-central station facility (proposed or incumbent) and a co-channel or adjacent channel central station operation (proposed or incumbent) is 160 km (100 miles) or greater as measured from the closest point of the non-central station area of operation, as defined by either a County border or the edge of a maximum area of operation from center coordinates of normal day-to-day operations, to the edge of the central station's licensed area of operation, the application may be certified. In such situations, notification of the application shall be sent to TMA, along with a copy of the search results showing the location of the proposed facilities (including geographic

coordinates) and the absence of co-channel or adjacent channel central station facilities within 100 miles. TMA will not charge a concurrence fee for review of such applications, and shall provide its concurrence within three (3) business days.

Step 2 – Should proposed and incumbent (co-channel or adjacent channel) systems be closer than 160 km (100 miles), then an application may be certified if the 21 dbuV/m (50,10) interference contour calculated from a non-central station system's (proposed or incumbent) fixed stations do not overlap (proposed or incumbent) central station area of operation, as reflected on its license. The 21 dbuV/m (50,10) interference contour shall be calculated using generally accepted engineering practices and standards. If this step shows overlap of a central station adjacent channel operation based on interfering contour overlap analyses to the edge of the central station incumbent's mobile only area of operation, or the service contour of a fixed site used by a central station incumbent, the applicant shall apply the LMCC-adopted Adjacent Channel Contour Value (ACCV) table which rates the adjacent channel contours for both incumbent and proposed systems based on their individual emission designators, treating both as exclusive use systems. If there is no overlap, the adjacent channel analysis passes. If there is overlap, the analysis fails. The results of all contour analyses and related ACCV or other studies shall be provided to TMA with the concurrence request. Applicants may be asked to provide further showings, or offered the option of a field test, if interference protection is not clearly demonstrated.

Step 3 – If the frequency coordination analysis fails Step 2, applications may be certified if accompanied by a letter of consent from all licensees whose systems could not be protected pursuant to the analysis required in Step 2.