

PART 15 RULES

Part 15 of the FCC's rules governs the responsibilities of owners of unlicensed devices that use RF communications (such as cordless phones or wireless data transceivers) or unintentional radiators, devices that radiate RF energy unintentionally as part of normal operation such as power lines, electric fences, or computers. These are called *Part 15 devices*. In cases of interference to or from Part 15, you can begin to see the advantages of being federally licensed.

Reducing Part 15 to its basic principles:

- An unlicensed device permitted under Part 15 or an unintentional radiator may not cause interference to a licensed communications station, such as to an Amateur Radio station. Its owner must prevent it from causing such interference or stop operating it.
- An unlicensed device permitted under Part 15 must accept interference caused by a properly operating licensed communications station, such as from an Amateur Radio station.

What this means is that as long as your station is operating properly under the FCC's rules, then your operation is protected against interference by and complaints of interference to unlicensed equipment. If your signals are interfering with a television or telephone, it is the TV or telephone owner's responsibility to eliminate it, even though you may assist them. Similarly, it is the owner's responsibility to eliminate interference caused by their device, even with assistance from you. These rules are printed in the owner's manual for all unlicensed devices and are available on the FCC Web site (www.fcc.gov).

Before you go on, study test questions T5A06, 07; T3D02, 03, 07, 11; T5D01-10; T9B03. Review this section if you have difficulty.