

## EAS LOG EXPLANATION

**Required Weekly Test (RWT) Received:** The LP-1 and LP-2 (Local Primary stations) are each required to transmit a RWT, except during a week when a Required Monthly Test (RMT) is transmitted. For purposes of FCC rules and regulations, the **EAS week runs from Sunday to the following Saturday**. We're required to monitor two sources; we should receive a minimum of two RWTs each week. Failure to receive an RWT must be noted on the log, along with steps taken to determine the cause of the failure and to rectify the problem. If the problem was at the source, i.e. LP-1 or LP-2, we must note on the log how it was determined the problem was at their end. *(Note that WOOL-FM also monitors and logs a New Hampshire LP, as well as Common Alerting Protocol [CAP].)*

**Required Weekly Test (RWT) Transmitted:** Each week, we're required to transmit a RWT. For purposes of FCC rules and regulations, the **EAS week runs from Sunday to the following Saturday**. The test doesn't have to coincide with receiving an RWT from the monitored sources; the choice of date and time for transmitting RWTs is up to us. *(Note that WOOL-FM automates the broadcast of RWTs.)* During a week when a Required Monthly Test (RMT) is broadcast, we're exempted from transmitting a RWT. If we fail to transmit an RWT in a given week, the failure must be noted on the EAS log, along with the actions taken to determine the cause of the failure and steps taken to rectify the problem.

**Required Monthly Test (RMT) Received:** Each month, LP-1 and LP-2 will generate an RMT. If we don't receive both RMTs, FCC rules and regulations require us to log the failure and also provide an explanation in the log. We must also include the steps taken to determine the cause of the failure and to rectify the problem. *(Note that WOOL-FM also monitors and logs a New Hampshire LP.)*

**Required Monthly Test (RMT) Transmitted:** FCC rules require us to rebroadcast (relay) the RMT within one (1) hour of receiving it. *(Note that WOOL-FM automates the rebroadcast of RMTs.)* If we're unable to successfully transmit the entire RMT, we must note the failure on the log, and explain what caused the failure and the steps taken to rectify the problem. In the event that we didn't successfully rebroadcast the RMT, we must transmit a RWT during that week and note that the RWT was transmitted in lieu of the RMT. *(Note that WOOL-FM also rebroadcasts the RMT from the New Hampshire LP, but our responsibility is to Vermont's system.)*

**Weekly Log Review by Chief Operator or Designee:** FCC rules and regulations require that **the EAS log must be reviewed and signed off on a weekly basis by the Chief Operator or his/her designee**. Each week when the log must be reviewed, dated, and signed. (Recommendation: The Chief Operator, Acting Chief Operator, or Designee should review the EAS system and logs on Thursday of each week. This provides time to determine failures and take action prior to the end of the EAS week. The **EAS week runs from Sunday to the following Saturday**.)

### NOTES:

**We're required by FCC rules and regulations to have a letter posted at the primary control point that clearly states who has been assigned the responsibilities of Chief Operator.** Optionally, the letter should also state who the Acting Chief Operator and Designee are, in the event the Chief Operator is unavailable. This letter must be signed by the Licensee or top management acting on behalf of the Licensee. The primary control point is the studio; the letter can be posted on the bulletin board with other official notices and postings.

**We're required by FCC rules and regulations to maintain an EAS Operating Handbook at all EAS control points.** This includes PC3 and the big equipment rack.

***EAS testing will be performed on a weekly basis and each station must receive and transmit one test every week. The tests consist of a Required Weekly Test and a Required Monthly Test.***

**A) Required Weekly Test [See 11.61(a)(2)]**

***(WOOL's weekly tests are automated.)*** The Required Weekly Test consists of the EAS header codes and End of Message codes. A brief announcement may be used to introduce the test. This test will take approximately 10 seconds to conduct. Each station may transmit the weekly test at any time during the week. There is no requirement to re-transmit a weekly test upon receipt. Therefore, stations may schedule broadcasts of Weekly Tests at their convenience.

**B) Required Monthly Test [See 11.61(a)(1)]**

***(WOOL's monthly tests are automated.)*** The Required Monthly Test consists of (1) the EAS header codes, (2) at least eight seconds of the two-tone attention signal, (3) an audio test script, (4) the End of Message codes. The monthly test can last approximately 30 seconds. Monthly Tests are originated by the Local Primary Stations or State Primary Stations. Monthly Tests will be conducted between 8:30 AM and local sunset on odd numbered months and between local sunset and 8:30 AM on even numbered months. Unlike the Weekly Test, the Monthly Test must be re-transmitted within 59 minutes of receipt. There is no need to send a weekly test during the week that a Monthly Test is performed.

Q: If my station is monitoring multiple sources, what do we do when we receive multiple Monthly Tests? For example if my station is monitoring three broadcast stations, we may receive three Monthly Tests at three different times.

A: The Decoder will recognize the second and third receipts as duplicates.

Q: The Commission's Rules require that each participant monitor at least two sources with the EAS Decoder. Does monitoring a NOAA weather station count as one of the two required sources?

A: Monitoring a NOAA weather station counts as one of the two required sources only if it is specified that way in the FCC approved State EAS Plan. The State EAS Plan will list at least two required monitoring sources for each operational area. Each station should be sure to monitor, at minimum, the sources listed in the State's EAS Plan for their respective EAS local area.

Q: What if my station can not receive the sources listed in the State EAS Plan?

A: If a station can not receive the sources listed in the State EAS Plan, alternate arrangements or a waiver may be obtained by written request to the FCC's EAS Office. In an emergency, a waiver may be issued over the telephone with a follow-up letter to confirm the temporary or permanent reassignment.

Q: What additional equipment does the Commission require my FM Broadcast Station to purchase to provide emergency warnings using Radio Broadcast Data Systems (RBDS) transmitted via subcarrier?

A: RBDS Technology allows for frequency agility which permits receivers to search out and lock onto local emergency alert stations. Consumer receivers equipped with RBDS can be turned on selectively and automatically from a standby state, much like personal pagers. Increasing numbers of consumer electronic devices, such as car radios, are equipped to receive RBDS. The Commission encourages FM Broadcast Stations to provide emergency warnings via subcarrier using RBDS but does not require their use. Therefore, the Commission does not require FM Broadcast Stations to purchase any equipment to provide emergency warnings using RBDS.

Q: What are the two required monitoring sources as listed in the State EAS plan?

A: Each station should monitor the LP1 and LP2 station in their local EAS Local area.

Q: What are the two required monitoring sources for the LP1 stations?

A: All LP1 stations should be connected to the state primary source, directly or indirectly. The LP1 stations should also monitor the LP2 station in the local EAS Local Area.

Q: Does NOAA have the ability to relay national alerts through local weather stations?

A: It is NOAA's National Weather Service Policy to allow their stations to relay national messages. However, not all NOAA weather stations are equipped with EAS encoder/decoder units. Therefore, NOAA's ability to relay a national message varies from station to station.

Q: May a NOAA Weather Station be an LP2 source if that station has the ability to carry national EAS messages?

A: Yes, as long as the NOAA Weather Station personnel are aware of and will perform the duties required for relaying national EAS messages, including the EAS message sequence. In addition, the NOAA Weather Station must meet all the monitoring requirements and perform all the duties of an LP2 station as required by the state EAS plan.