



# NEWS

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## FCC UPDATES RULES FOR BROADCAST AUXILIARY SERVICE WHICH WILL HELP FURTHER THE DIGITAL TRANSITION

Washington, DC - The Federal Communications Commission adopted a *Report and Order (Order)* updating the Broadcast Auxiliary Service (BAS) rules to enable BAS licensees throughout the country to take advantage of the latest digital technology. BAS stations are used by broadcast stations to conduct electronic news gathering (ENG) and to transmit broadcast material from the studio to the transmitter (Studio-to-Transmitter Link or STL). The *Order* addresses the broadcast industry's desire to use the latest digital technology in all frequency bands allocated for the BAS. The rules adopted in this *Order* will help ensure a smooth transition from analog to digital TV and enable broadcasters to have an end-to-end digital broadcasting system using any BAS frequency band.

The *Order* conforms certain technical rules, such as transmitter power and emission limits, for the BAS, Cable Television Relay Service (CARS) and Fixed Microwave Services (FS), and allows certain additional users of wireless assist video devices on unused TV channels. The Commission further adopted rule changes designed to increase spectrum efficiency by ensuring that similar services operating on shared spectrum are regulated in a consistent manner. The BAS, CARS, and FS share several frequency bands, but in some cases have operated under different technical rules.

In addition, today's action adopts modifications to simplify and streamline the BAS rules. These include extending to all BAS licenses the ability to operate under temporary conditional authority, implementing common coordination procedures for BAS bands, and ensuring that BAS licensees can take full advantage of the Commission's Universal Licensing System. These rule changes will expedite the time it takes for an applicant to begin providing service.

Finally, the Commission adopted new rules allow motion picture and television producers to use wireless assist video devices on unused TV channels, under certain conditions designed to protect current users of the band. These devices produce low resolution video images and are used by production crews for content, lighting and image framing. Currently, these devices may be used by broadcasters to assist them in producing films and programs. This action extends the use of these devices to all film and program producers.

Action by the Commission October 30, 2002, by Report and Order (FCC 02-298). Chairman Powell, Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, and Martin.

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