

ANOTHER NATIONAL EAS TEST IS COMING
Allen Myers, IBS Executive Vice President
FCC Licensing & Regulatory Matters

On June 25, 2016, the FCC issued a Public Notice that announced a National EAS Test will be conducted on September 28, 2016. A secondary test is scheduled for October 5, 2016. The Public Notice also stated that all broadcast stations are required to register for and submit Form 1 of the new EAS Test Reporting System (ETRS), electronically, on or before August 26th. However, in the event that you are unable to register and file Form 1 by the date they are due because your station was shut down over the summer or operating on automation, please e-mail me immediately at almyers@starpower.net and then complete the registration and submit the form. I will notify the appropriate Commission staff of your situation. While there are penalties for failing to comply with EAS procedures, the Commission has established ETRS as a means to improve the Emergency Alert System and does not view it as a device to raise money through fines.

ETRS Registration Form

A copy of the ETRS registration is enclosed with this newsletter. To submit the form from the Commission's website, go to <https://www.fcc.gov/eform/submit/etrs-registration>. While it is not very complicated, there are a couple of sections that I want to call to your attention. First, the "legal name of applicant" is what appears on your station's license authorization. Secondly, the form also requires your station to provide its Facility Reference Number, or FRN. If you do not know this, please go to http://licensing.fcc.gov/prod/cdbs/pubacc/prod/sta_sear.htm and enter your station's call sign; then scroll down to "FRN History." Lastly, the registration form requires your FRN password. This password is the one you use to file an application with the FCC. If you are not able to provide it, please go to <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do> to obtain it before submitting the ETRS registration form.

ETRS Form 1

With this Form, the Commission is asking you for data about your current CAP System in order to eliminate problems that have occurred with previous National EAS Tests. Some fields in this form are deserving of clarification. **Owner of EAS Participant:** If your school is part of a larger school system, the larger system may be considered to be the owner depending on the degree of independence your school has within the larger system. **Geographic Zones of**

Service: This is the your operational area as stated in your State EAS Plan.
Make and Model of EAS Equipment and **Software Version:** These are drop-down menus. If you have old EAS equipment and the manufacturer is no longer operating, you may need to choose “Other” in the software drop-down menu and fill in the additional information requested. **Filer Contact Information:** Please fill in the name, phone number and e-mail address of the person who is submitting Form 1. Regardless of whether the above individual is the **EAS Participant’s Day of Test Contact**, you must fill in this portion of the form with the information required for the person who will be responsible for the EAS test at your station.

You may make edits to ETRS Form 1 until September 26, 2016.

ETRS Forms 2 and 3

These are basically multiple -choice after-action reports that must be submitted to the Commission. Form 2 must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. EDT on September 28th. Form 3 must be submitted on or before November 14, 2016. However, Forms 2 and 3 will not be available on the Commission’s website until 2:20 p.m. on September 28th Hint—this might be the time of the test.

Complete information on ETRS, including a User Manual can be found on the Commission’s website at <https://www.fcc.gov/general/eas-test-reporting-system>. And, as always, as a member of IBS, I am here to help you on this and any other FCC related matter. Please feel free to e-mail me at almyers@starpower.net.