

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary



National Staff Response Directorate Telecommunications Division

NATIONAL TELECOMM BULLETIN

3 SEPT 2024

BULLETIN
24-03

Items chosen for this bulletin come from questions recently asked of the Telecommunications Division, are reminders to our telecommunications personnel, or are invitations for discussion. Bulletin items are not changes or modifications to existing policy. Please feel free to distribute this bulletin to your associates. And, if you have items you would like included in an

upcoming bulletin, please send them to my attention. This Bulletin is published as needed and does not follow a schedule.

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Mission Code 20B

We recently were asked to provide the difference between Mission Code 20B, Radio Watchstanding, and Mission Code 07A, Watchstanding.

Mission code 20B is used when the member stands a radio watch at a Coast Guard Station or Sector Command Center. It is distinguished in that the member is communicating over the radio during the shift.

The 07A Mission Code is used for other types of watchstanding, such as staffing an entry gate, serving in the Situation Unit at a Command Center, or other similar activity ashore which does not involve communicating on the radio.

For additional information contact Dave Rockwell, BC-RTC, at David.Rockwell@cgauxnet.us.

Mission Code 20D

Mission Code 20D is defined as "COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT SETUP AND MAINTENANCE – Time spent obtaining, delivering, setting up, installing, maintaining and demobilizing Auxiliary radio facility equipment". 20D is the proper mission code for radio inspections.

There have been some errors made whereby 20D entries have been changed to Mission Code 99A. Recently it has been confirmed that radio inspections should be entered as Mission Code 20D.

We expect that shortly Mission Code 20D's definition will change to "COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT SETUP, MAINTENANCE and INSPECTION -- Time spent obtaining, delivering, setting up, installing, maintaining, inspecting and demobilizing Auxiliary radio facility and related equipment".

For additional information contact Dave Rockwell, BC-RTC, at David.Rockwell@cgauxnet.us.

VHF Radio Inspections

Auxiliary radio owners and programmers are reminded that our seven Auxiliary VHF frequencies are sensitive and not to be released to unauthorized personnel.

When programming a VHF transceiver, these frequencies shall not appear on the radio's display, but instead be referred to as a channel name. Weather channels should be displayed as the actual frequency (such as 162.5500). Marine Channels should display as the channel's name (such as CHAN 16) and not the frequency.

For additional information contact Bill Walter, BC-RTI, at William.T.Walter@cgauxnet.us.

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Radio and Cell Phone Use while in Uniform

Auxiliarists should be aware of the Coast Guard policy regarding the use of cell phones while walking in uniform. According to Uniform Board 45 Message, the use of “all hand-held devices (i.e., talking, texting, or reading) is not authorized while walking in uniform. If unavoidable, for safety and to ensure military protocol is observed, personnel should stop and step aside to conduct business [on their cell phone] before proceeding.” This prohibition is not limited to cell phones, but “all hand-held devices” which includes portable two-way

radios. See: <https://cgaux-helpdesk.kayako.com/article/274-use-of-cell-phones-and-hand-held-devices#:~:text=Use%20of%20cell%20phones%20and%20any%20other%20hand%20held%20devices,authorized%20while%20walking%20in%20uniform.>

AUXCOMs Prior to 2008 no longer may Operate as TCOs

According to the Auxiliary Operations Process Guide, Volume III: Telecommunications (16798.33A, August 2023), the TCO certification or Coast Guard Communications Watchstander (CWS) (Volume III, B.6.) must be held by Auxiliarists who operate the following types of facilities:

- VHF and HF stations (C.8.)
- AUXMON stations, along with AUXCOM (D.5.)
- AUGCOM stations, along with AUXCOM (D.7.)

Also, as of the release of Volume III, those who are AUXCOM qualified prior to 01AUG2008 may not perform initial or tri-annual radio inspections. Further, these legacy AUXCOM operators will not be able to renew their radio facility’s tri-annual Offer For Use (7004).

DSO-CMs should be assessing their members to determine how many legacy AUXCOM operators are in their District and making plans to provide them with training for the TCO qualification.

The Guide is available at https://wow.uscgaux.info/Uploads_wowII/BX-GROUP/Auxiliary_Operations_Process_Guide_Volume_III-Telecommunications.pdf.

For additional information contact Aaron Forste, BC-RTQ, at Aaron.Forste@cgauxnet.us.

Radio Inspections

The Auxiliary Operations Process Guide Volume III states that immediate family members may not inspect their own radio equipment (B.4. Unauthorized Inspections). We recently received a request to define “immediate family members.”

The legal definition for immediate family is a person's spouse, children, parents, siblings, stepparents, stepchildren, and in-laws (42 USC § 1320a-7(j)(1)). The spouse of a child, brother, or sister is added by 12 CFR § 390.293, while 26 USC § 9035(b) adds grandparents. Regardless, the intent should be clear.

For additional information contact William Walter, BC-RTI, at William.T.Walter@cgauxnet.us.