



2009 Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program

The Ohio Association of Broadcasters (OAB), in cooperation with the FCC, has established the Alternative Broadcast Inspection (ABI) Program to help stations ensure that they are in compliance with FCC regulations. The OAB ABI Program is being implemented pursuant to an agreement between OAB and the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Under this program, a station that is inspected by an OAB technical inspector, and certified to be in compliance with the FCC's technical rules, is exempt from routine inspections by the FCC Field Office for three years.

Scope of Inspection

The OAB's inspectors have been approved by the FCC to conduct inspections comparable to official FCC Field Office inspections, which are typically based upon the applicable "FCC Broadcast Station Self-Inspection Checklist." Copies of the checklists are available on the FCC website at: www.fcc.gov/eb/bc-chklsts/.

The inspections will typically include the following:

- Inspection of the station licenses to assure compliance by the station with transmitter power, directional AM parameters and auxiliary operations.
- Inspection of the control point and associated transmitter operation, required station logs, transmission standards, and compliance with tower regulations and EAS responsibilities.
- Inspection of the station's compliance with all EAS requirements, including equipment, logging, and past EAS performance, and review of Chief Operator requirements, station logs and required Equipment Performance Measurements.
- A thorough review of each station's Public File and issues related to location of the Public File outside the city of license, if applicable.
- An inspection of the station's transmitter sites, including verification of tower registration, tower lighting, antennas, and transmitter power, frequency, and modulation. All monitor points will be run for AM directional stations, and the station must supply a working Field Strength Meter and personnel who know how to operate the meter and navigate to all required points.

Following the OAB inspection, the inspector will notify the station of any detected violations of FCC technical requirements. The inspector will give the station a reasonable period of time to correct violations, and where necessary, a re-inspection may be conducted.

When the inspector is satisfied that the station is in compliance and has taken all required remedial actions, the OAB, upon approval of the inspector, will send a Certificate of Compliance to the station and to the FCC's Field Office in Detroit, Michigan.

Upon receipt of the OAB Certificate of Compliance, the FCC’s Field Office will not conduct a routine random inspection of the station for a period of three years from the date of certification. However, the station will still be subject to the following FCC inspections during this three-year period:

- 1) public file inspections relating to political broadcasting or EEO materials;
- 2) inspections concerning tower safety; and
- 3) complaint-driven inspections.

Immunity During Inspection Period

Stations that apply for an inspection through the OAB ABI Program can receive immunity from FCC routine random inspections during a “grace period,” which is defined as the 150-day period beginning on the date the OAB receives payment for the inspection.

In order to receive immunity during this grace period, the station must authorize the OAB to notify the FCC that it has applied for the inspection. The station will have 150 days to successfully complete the inspection. If the station has not successfully passed the inspection within the 150-day grace period, the station is not immune from an official FCC inspection.

If the station does not wish to have the OAB notify the FCC of its application, the station will not have immunity until it has completed the inspection and received a certificate of compliance.

Cost of Inspection

Stations are responsible for the inspection fees charged by the inspector, as well as the travel expenses associated with the inspection.

<u>Station Type</u>	<u>Fee for OAB members</u>	<u>Fee for non-members</u>
• AM or FM station	\$350	\$525
• Additional station(s) (co-located transmitters)	\$200 each	\$300 each
• Directional antenna monitor points	\$50 each	\$50 each
• Television station – analog & digital signal	\$700	\$1,050
• Re-inspection	50% of original inspection fee if completed within 60 days	50% of original inspection fee if completed within 60 days

Within four (4) weeks after the inspection, each station will also be invoiced for its portion of the inspector’s travel expenses below. Where possible, charges will be pro-rated among stations inspected on the same day:

- Auto mileage – current IRS auto mileage rate (January, 2009 – \$0.55/mile; subject to change)
- Air travel, meals, lodging, tolls, parking, etc. – at cost.

Payments should be made payable to the Ohio Association of Broadcasters. Payments to the OAB may be deductible as a legitimate business expense under the Internal Revenue Code. They are not deductible, however, as charitable contributions.

Registering for an Inspection

To participate in the OAB's Alternative Broadcast Inspection (ABI) Program, please complete the attached registration form and return it to:

OAB Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program
88 E Broad St., Ste. 1180
Columbus OH 43215-3525
Fax: 614.228.8133

Questions?

For additional information about the program, contact Patti Geary, OAB Director of Operations, at 866-OAB-5794 or 614.228.4052 or via email at pgeary@oab.org.



2009 REGISTRATION FOR OAB ALTERNATIVE BROADCAST INSPECTION (ABI) PROGRAM

Complete one registration form per company. Include the call letters of all the stations to be inspected. Please print or type and return to:

OAB Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program
88 E Broad St., Ste. 1180
Columbus, OH 43215-3525
Phone: 866-OAB-5794 or 614.228.4052 Fax: 614.228.8133

Company Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Please provide the following information about all stations to be inspected:

Call Letters	Type of Station <i>(indicate if the station is AM directional and if so, number of monitor points)</i>	Frequency	City of License <i>(if different from above)</i>	Address <i>(if different from above)</i>

IMMUNITY DURING INSPECTION PERIOD

Stations that apply for an inspection through the OAB ABI Program can receive immunity from FCC routine random inspections during a "grace period," which is defined as the 150-day period beginning on the date the OAB receives payment for the inspection.

In order to receive immunity during this grace period, your station must authorize the OAB to notify the FCC that it has applied for the inspection. Your station will then have 150 days to successfully complete the inspection. If your station has not successfully passed the inspection within the 150-day grace period, the station is not immune from an official FCC inspection.

If you do not wish to have the OAB notify the FCC of its application, your station will not have immunity until it has completed the inspection and received a certificate of compliance.

Please indicate whether or not you wish to have immunity as described above:

_____ I elect the grace period and authorize OAB to notify the FCC of the station's participation in the inspection program.

_____ I do not elect the grace period and understand that the station will be subject to FCC inspection until it receives a Certificate of Compliance.

BILLING & SCOPE OF INSPECTION

I understand I will receive a billing invoice for the inspection program and agree to pay the invoice before the inspection is conducted. I also agree to make station staff available to accompany the OAB inspector and provide information necessary to complete the inspection as scheduled.

I also understand that the station will still be subject to the following FCC inspections: (1) public file inspections relating to political broadcasting or EEO materials; (2) inspections concerning tower safety; and (3) complaint-driven inspections.

RELEASE

I RELEASE, DISCHARGE AND HOLD HARMLESS THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS, ITS AGENTS, INSPECTORS AND EMPLOYEES FROM ALL ERRORS, OMISSIONS, CLAIMS AND LIABILITY OF EVERY KIND WHATSOEVER IN CONNECTION WITH, OR ARISING OUT OF THE INSPECTION.

Signature

Name

Title

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Fax

EFFECTIVE DATE:

(to be completed by OAB)