



WVBA ALTERNATIVE BROADCAST INSPECTION PROGRAM

Put your station under the microscope and avoid FCC inspections for 3 years

The West Virginia Broadcasters Association, in cooperation with the FCC Columbia Operations Center and Enforcement Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission, presents the
WVBA ALTERNATIVE BROADCAST INSPECTION PROGRAM

The WVBA has negotiated an agreement with the FCC office that allows WVBA to perform a complete FCC-type inspection of your station to ensure that it is in compliance with the FCC's rules AND that the station will not be subject to a surprise, random inspection by the FCC. If, after the inspection, no problems are found, WVBA will report compliance to the FCC and issue your station a Certificate of Compliance. With that certification, the FCC has agreed not to conduct a surprise, random inspection of your station for three years.

Who conducts these inspections and what kind of inspection can my station expect?

WVBA has engaged qualified independent broadcast engineers, approved by the Columbia Operations Field Office, who will conduct a full, FCC-type inspection of your station.

What happens if the station does not pass the ABIP?

The inspector will provide the station with a confidential report outlining any problems or FCC violations. You correct the problems identified within a specified period of time, submit to a re-inspection or provide other proof of compliance to the inspector. Then, with a clean bill of health, WVBA will notify the FCC of your compliance and issue a Certificate of Compliance. At no time is the FCC notified of a station that does not pass the ABIP inspection.

Could the FCC still come and inspect the station?

The FCC reserves the right to inspect a station as the result of a complaint or as part of a "targeted" inspection for tower safety, public file related to political broadcasting or EEO materials.

Is there anything that the ABIP inspection does not cover?

There are certain things that the ABIP inspector has no way of auditing, such as compliance with lowest unit rate, children's television commercial time limitations, EEO compliance or RF radiation exposure. The ABIP inspector will make a review of the station's local public inspection file, but only to ascertain that file is complete as it appears (i.e., the inspector would have no way of knowing if the public file were missing an application the station had filed with the FCC, but had failed to place in the public file).

Is the station protected from inspection by the FCC while the ABIP inspection is pending?

If the station chooses to have WVBA notify the local FCC Field Office of the pending ABIP inspection, the station will be protected against an FCC inspection for 150 days. If the FCC is not notified by WSAB, there is no protection until the station passes the ABIP inspection and receives its Certificate of Compliance.

What if the FCC shows up once you have a Certificate of Compliance?

Upon the Station's receipt of the Certificate of Compliance, the Station continuously displays its Certificate of Compliance either in plain view (*e.g.*, on the wall in the entrance area of the Station's main studio) or in the Station's FCC authorizations binder at its main studio.

The Station verbally informs any person who enters the main studio of the Station and identifies himself or herself as an FCC inspector seeking to conduct an FCC inspection that the Station holds a valid Certificate of Compliance (actions taken pursuant to Section 5(c)(ii) and (iii), collectively, "Publicly Disclosed" or "Public Disclosure"). The FCC will recognize the program. If uncertainty occurs please contact the GM of the station and a conversation will take place with the WVBA.

PROCEDURE TO GET STARTED

Step 1: Request Inspection Contract

Step 2: Return the signed contract with appropriate fee to WVBA. Each inspection must be prepaid. Upon receipt and approval your stations will start the "150 day grace period.

Step 3: The WVBA will send you a Broadcast Station Self-Inspection Checklist and the station and inspector will agree on a date and time for inspection, so that the station can be inspected, any routine deficiencies can be resolved and the station can receive its Certificate of Compliance with the 150.

Step 4: Upon completion of the successful inspection, your station will receive a certificate of Compliance and a copy will be sent to the local FCC office.

Step 5: Post your Certificate