



# **Technician License Course**



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## **Chapter 7 & 8**

### **Lesson Plan Module – 16**

**Call Signs, Control Operators, Station  
Identification and Third-Party  
Communications**

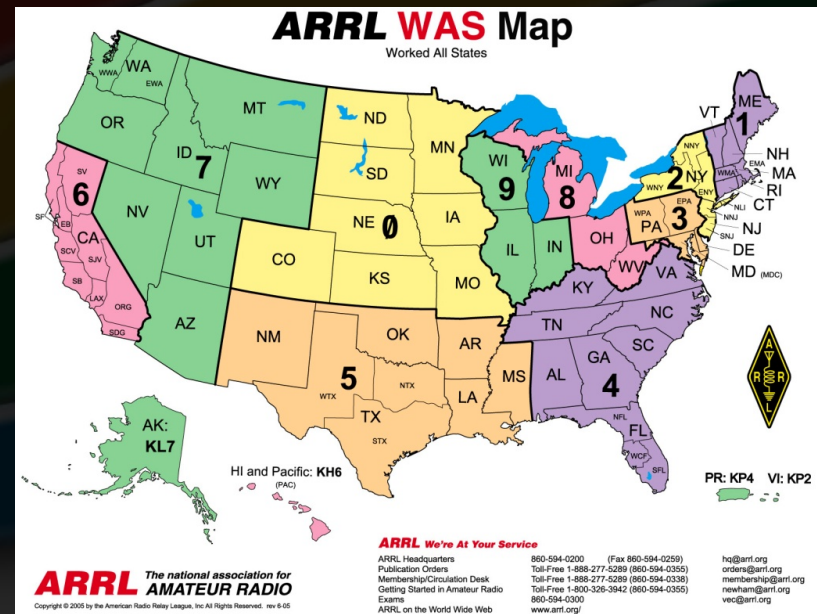


## Call Signs – Your “Radio Name”

- All amateur call signs have a prefix and a suffix
  - Prefix – indicates country of license
  - Suffix – indicates a specific licensee
- Prefix – generally two or three letters and numbers assigned by the ITU
- Suffix – one or more letters

# Call Signs

- US call signs begin with: K, N, W, and AA–AL
- Ten US call sign districts indicated by 0–9 in prefix
- Pacific and Caribbean possessions have special prefixes





## Call Signs

- U.S. call sign types for amateurs
  - 1x1 (WIW); 1x2 (WIWW); 2x1 (WWIW); 2x2 (WWIWW); 1x3 (WIWWW); or 2x3 (WWIWWW)
- 1x1 (“one by one”) is for special events
- Remaining types are Group A through D
  - Assigned by license class



## Call Signs

- Indicators – added to the call sign following a slash (/) or a word such as “portable”
- Portable – operating away from primary station location
- Mobile, aeronautical mobile, maritime mobile
- Upgrade indicators “AG” or “AE” or “KT”



## Choosing Your Call Sign

- Vanity call signs – similar to vanity license plates
- Pick any call sign authorized for your license class
  - Technicians can have 2x3 (Group D) or 1x3 (Group C) calls
- [www.arrl.org/vanity-call-signs](http://www.arrl.org/vanity-call-signs)



## Special Event and Club Calls

- Special event call signs: I x I
- Reserved via administrators  
([www.arrl.org/special-event-call-signs](http://www.arrl.org/special-event-call-signs))
- Club calls
  - Must have a valid club
  - Application by club's trustee
  - [www.arrl.org/club-call-signs](http://www.arrl.org/club-call-signs)





## Control Operator

- Control operator – the amateur licensee responsible for making sure transmissions comply with FCC rules.
- The FCC requires that transmissions are made only under the control of a licensed operator.



## Control Operator

- Designated by the station licensee.
  - Must have a valid FCC-issued Amateur Radio license or have reciprocal operating permission.
  - Station must operate within the authorization of the control operator's license.
  - Control operator must be present at the control point of the station



# Control Operator

- Designated by the station licensee.
- Assumed to be the station licensee unless otherwise documented.

## Control Operator

- Wherever the station controls are operated – not necessarily the physical transmitter
- The control operator must be able to assert control of the transmitter
- Control point can be at the transmitter, or linked to the transmitter
- Control by a circuit or computer is also allowed





## Guest Operations

- Non-licensed people can make transmissions but only when a control operator is present.
  - The control operator is solely responsible for station operation.
- For licensed guest operators, both the control operator and the guest ham are responsible for station operation.



## Station Identification (ID)

- All transmissions *must* be identified
  - State the call sign every 10 minutes during and at the end of the communication
  - Use phonetics on voice modes
- Use of “Tactical Calls”
- Licensed Guests



## Miscellaneous ID Rules

- Repeaters must also ID using the same 10 minute rule.
  - Can be voice or CW (at 20 WPM or less).
- Satellites and ISS have special rules.
- Special event calls.
  - Club call or control operator call given once per hour.

## Third-Party Communications

- *Third-party communication* – transmissions on behalf of an unlicensed entity
  - Could mean actually speaking on the air
  - Could mean passing a message on behalf of third party
- Two situations – different rules
  - Within the US
  - Communication that crosses international borders





## Third-Party within US

- No special rules.
- Just make sure the message is non-commercial in nature.



## Third-Party Across Borders

- Third-party agreement with US must exist
  - Check for current third-party agreements from ARRL website or FCC sources if in doubt
  - Most agreements are within ITU Region II
  - This includes contest operation
- Identify with both stations' call signs




Practice Questions

What configurations are valid US amateur radio station call signs?







What configurations are valid US amateur radio station call signs?


XX5XXX

X5XXX

XX5XX

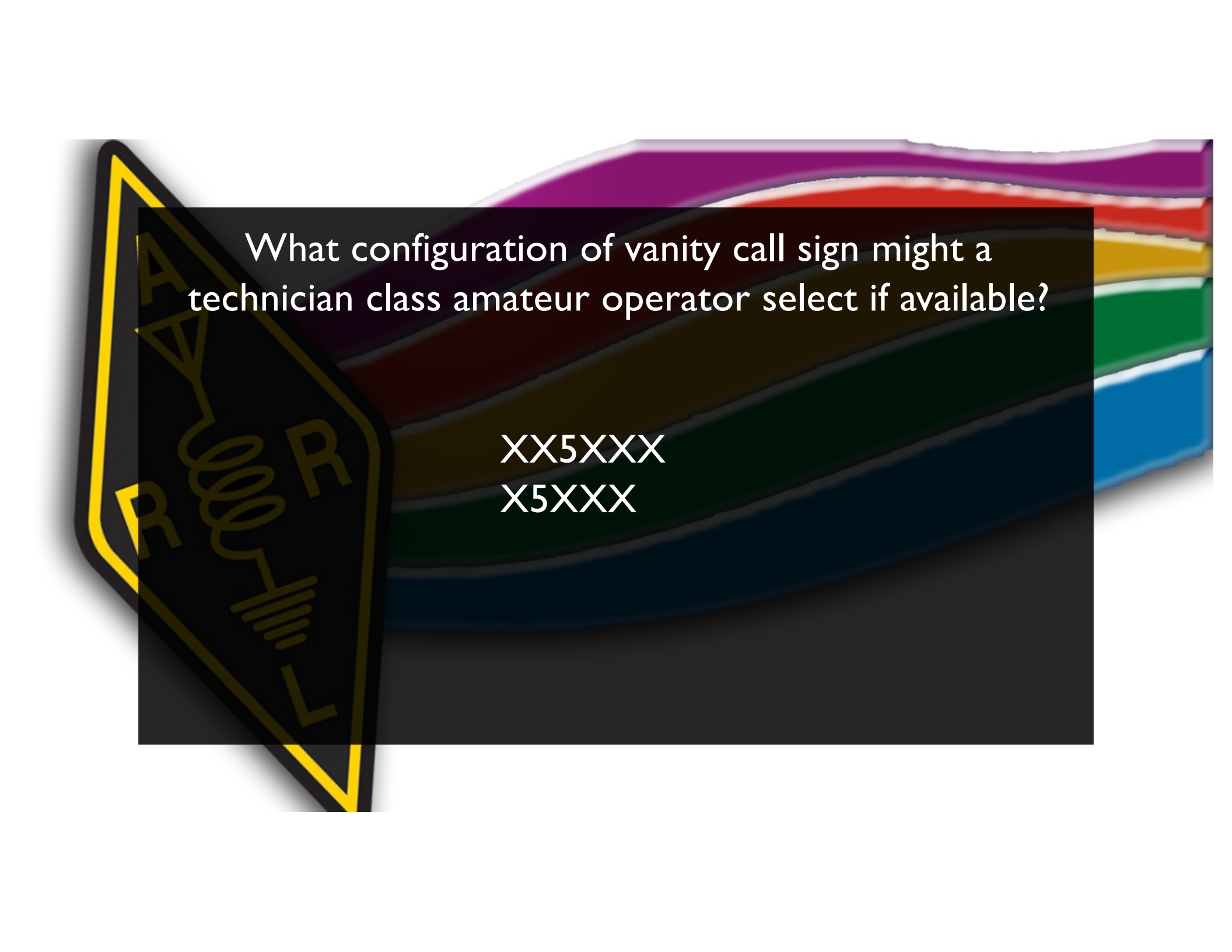
X5XX

XX5X



What configuration of vanity call sign might a technician class amateur operator select if available?





What configuration of vanity call sign might a technician class amateur operator select if available?

XX5XXX

X5XXX



Who may select a desired call sign under the vanity call sign rules?



Who may select a desired call sign under the  
vanity call sign rules?

Any licensed amateur




Who may select a vanity call sign for a club station?






Who may select a vanity call sign for a club station?

Only the person named as trustee on the club  
station license grant



When may an amateur station make transmissions without identifying?





When may an amateur station make transmissions without identifying?

Never

The background of the slide is a vibrant, multi-colored rainbow with wavy, layered edges. On the left side, there is a callout graphic that looks like a piece of paper or a sticker with a yellow border and a black background. It contains a circuit diagram with a coil and a battery, and the call sign 'AA-RR' is written in a stylized font. The text 'When is an amateur station permitted to transmit without a control operator?' is centered in white on a dark grey rectangular background.

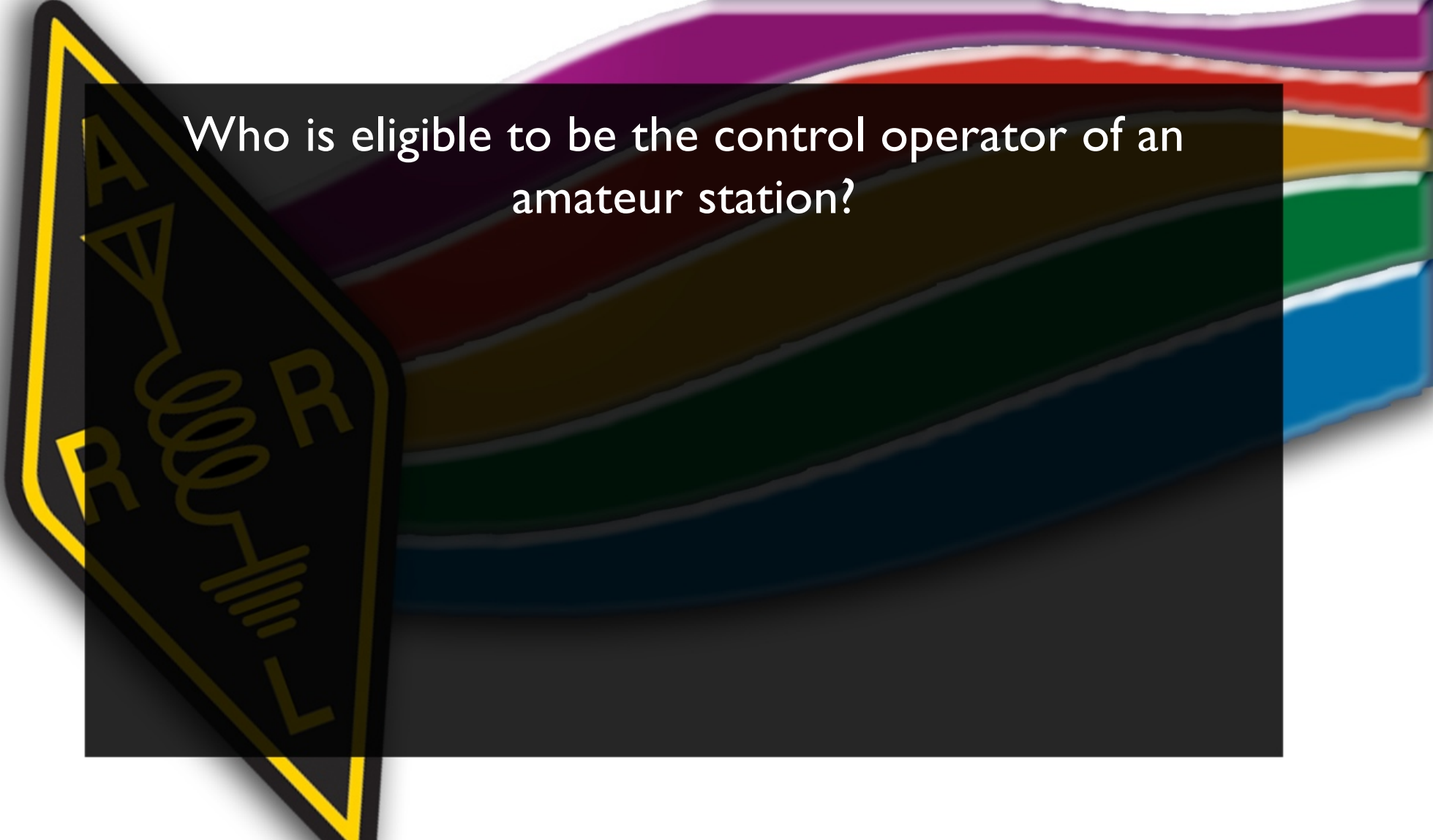
When is an amateur station permitted to transmit without a control operator?



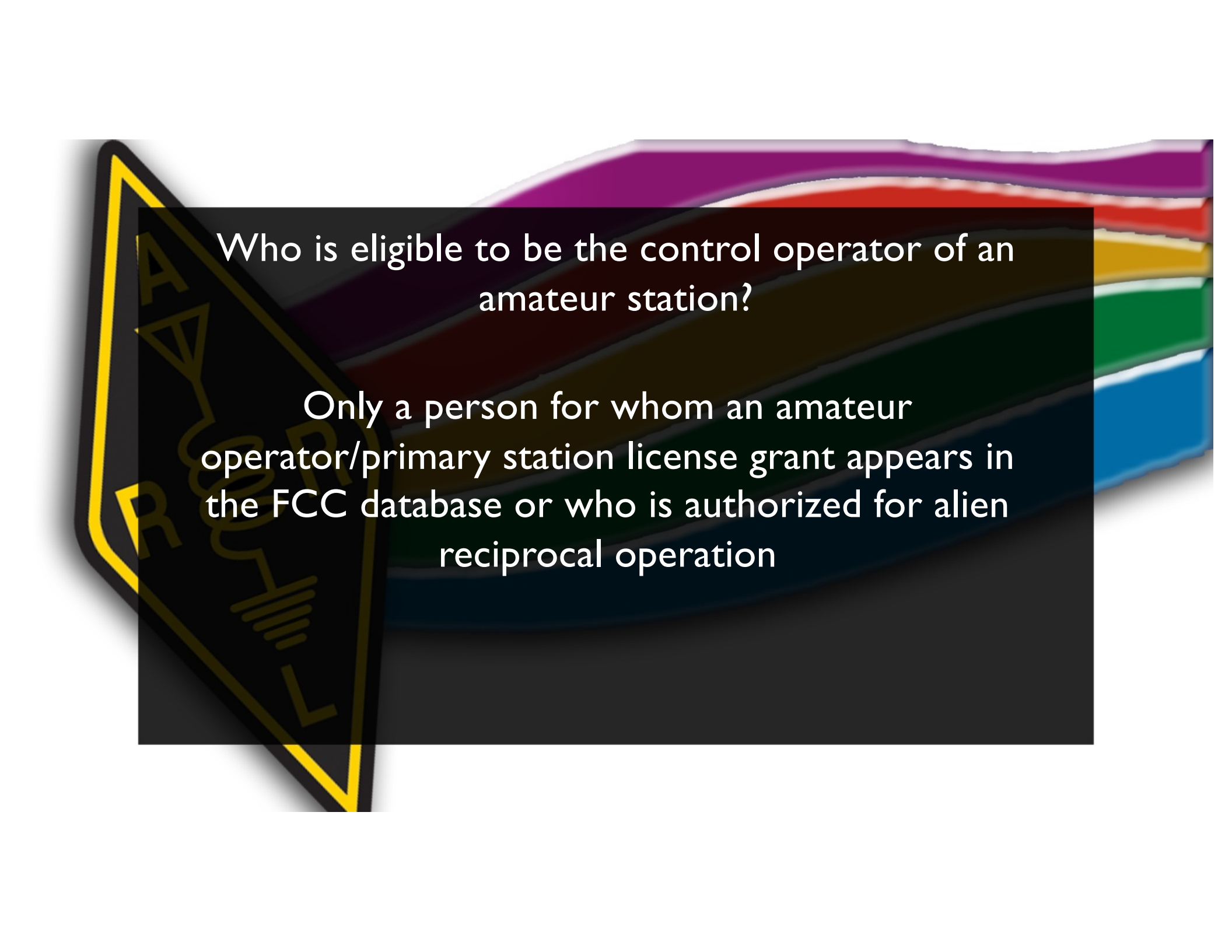


When is an amateur station permitted to transmit without a control operator?

Never



Who is eligible to be the control operator of an amateur station?



Who is eligible to be the control operator of an amateur station?

Only a person for whom an amateur operator/primary station license grant appears in the FCC database or who is authorized for alien reciprocal operation



Who must designate the station control operator?






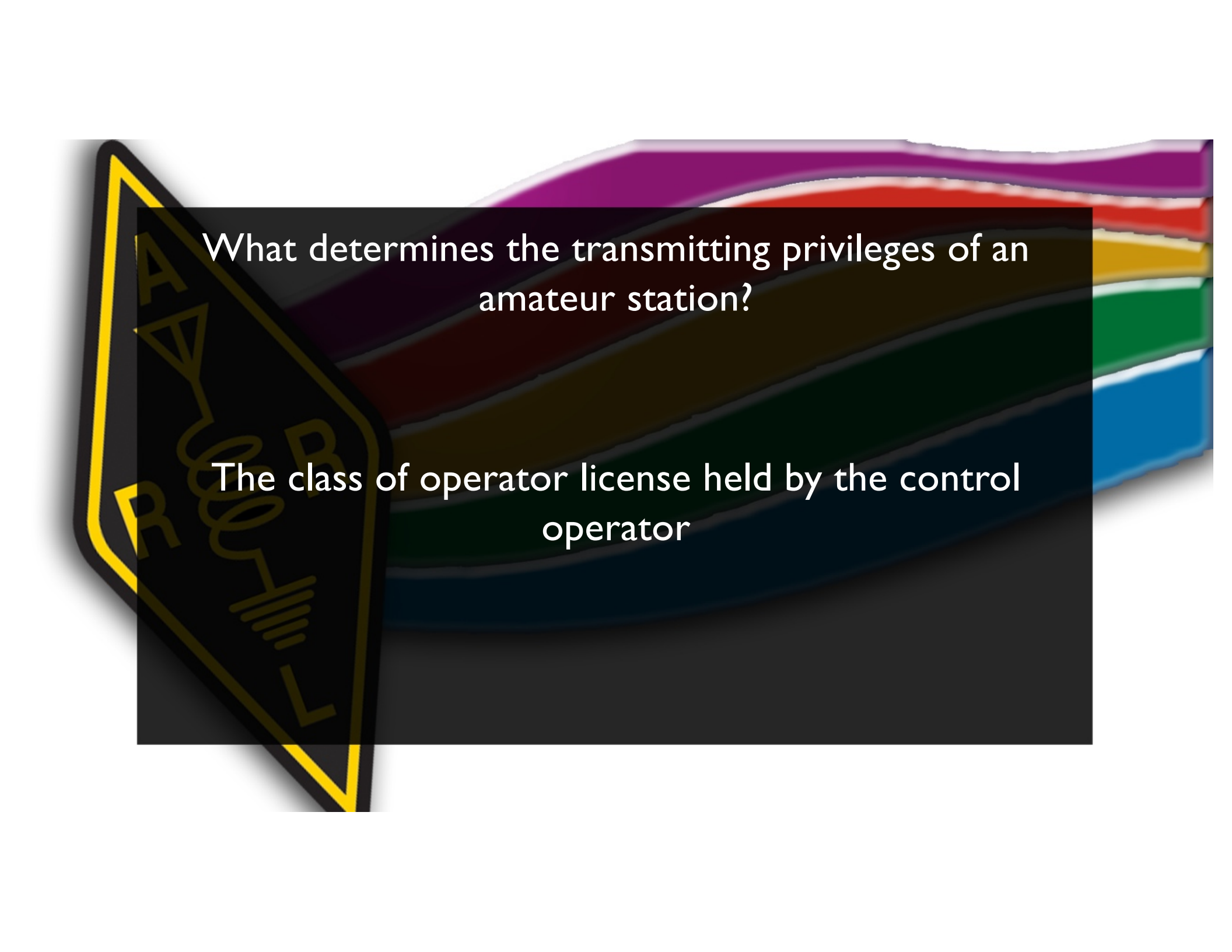
Who must designate the station control operator?

The station licensee





What determines the transmitting privileges of an amateur station?



What determines the transmitting privileges of an amateur station?

The class of operator license held by the control operator

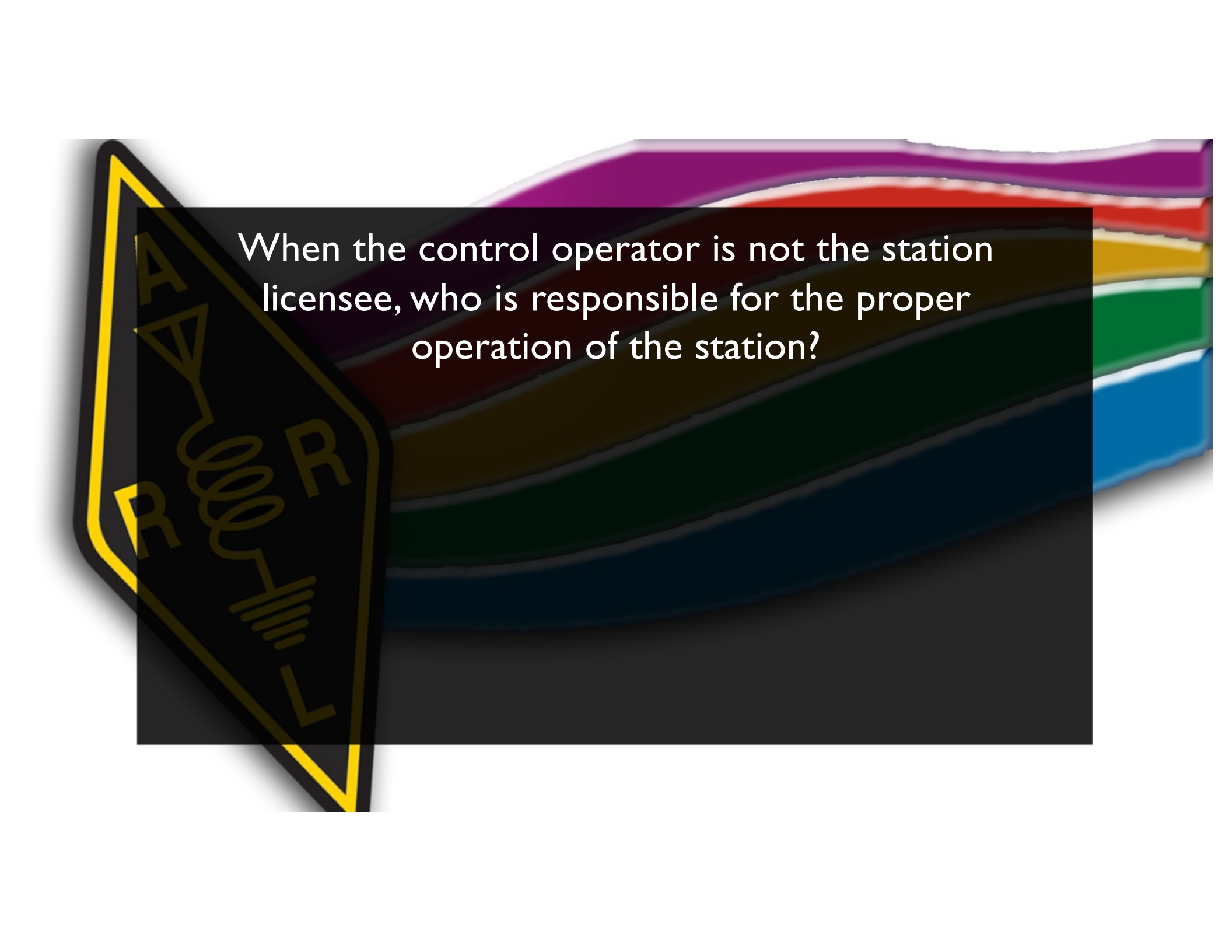
What is an amateur station control point?





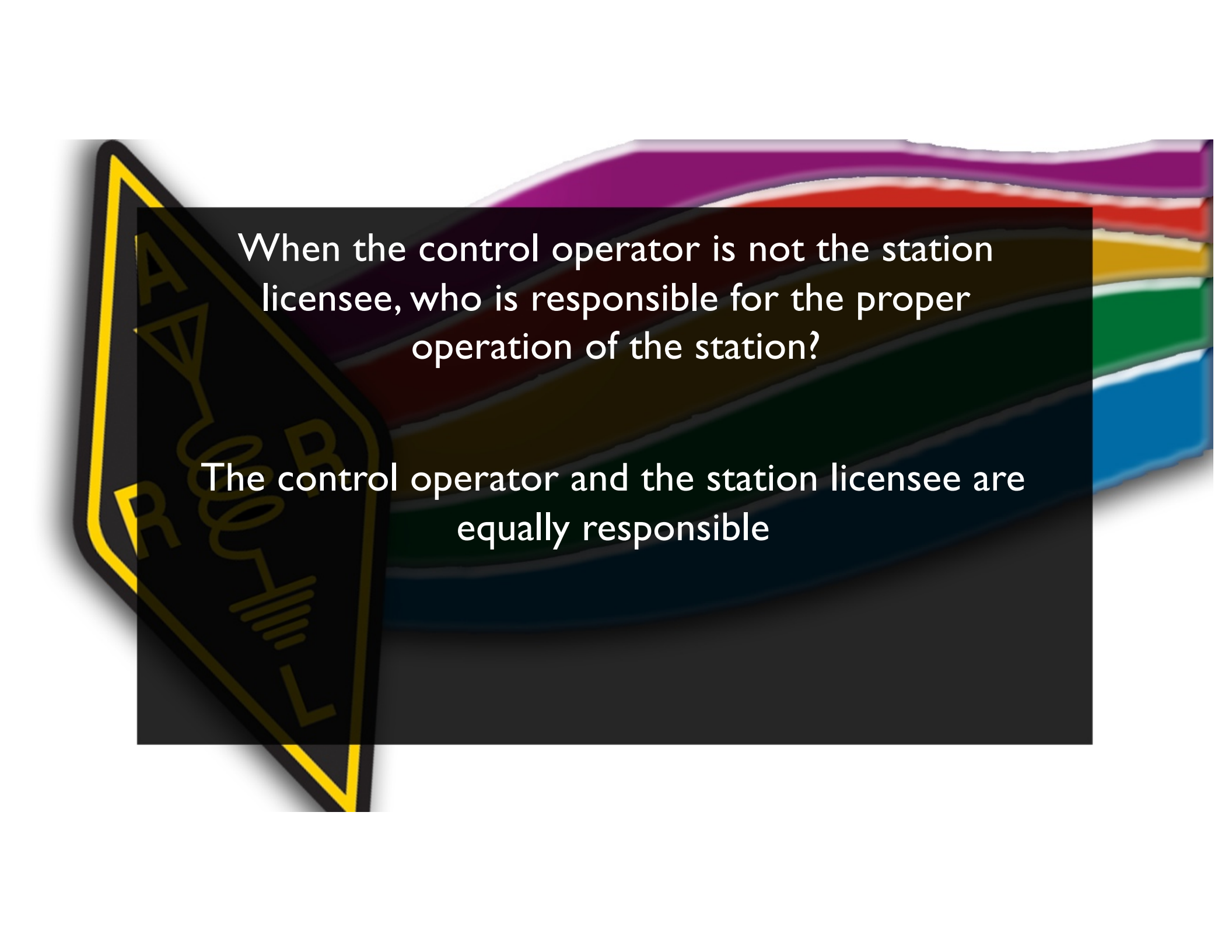
What is an amateur station control point?

The location at which the control operator function is performed

The background of the slide is a vibrant, multi-colored rainbow with wavy, torn-paper-like edges. On the left side, there is a technical diagram within a yellow-bordered, black-filled shape. The diagram includes a transformer symbol (two overlapping circles), a battery symbol (four parallel lines of varying lengths), and the letters 'A', 'R', and 'R' positioned around the components. The text of the question is centered in the upper portion of the slide.

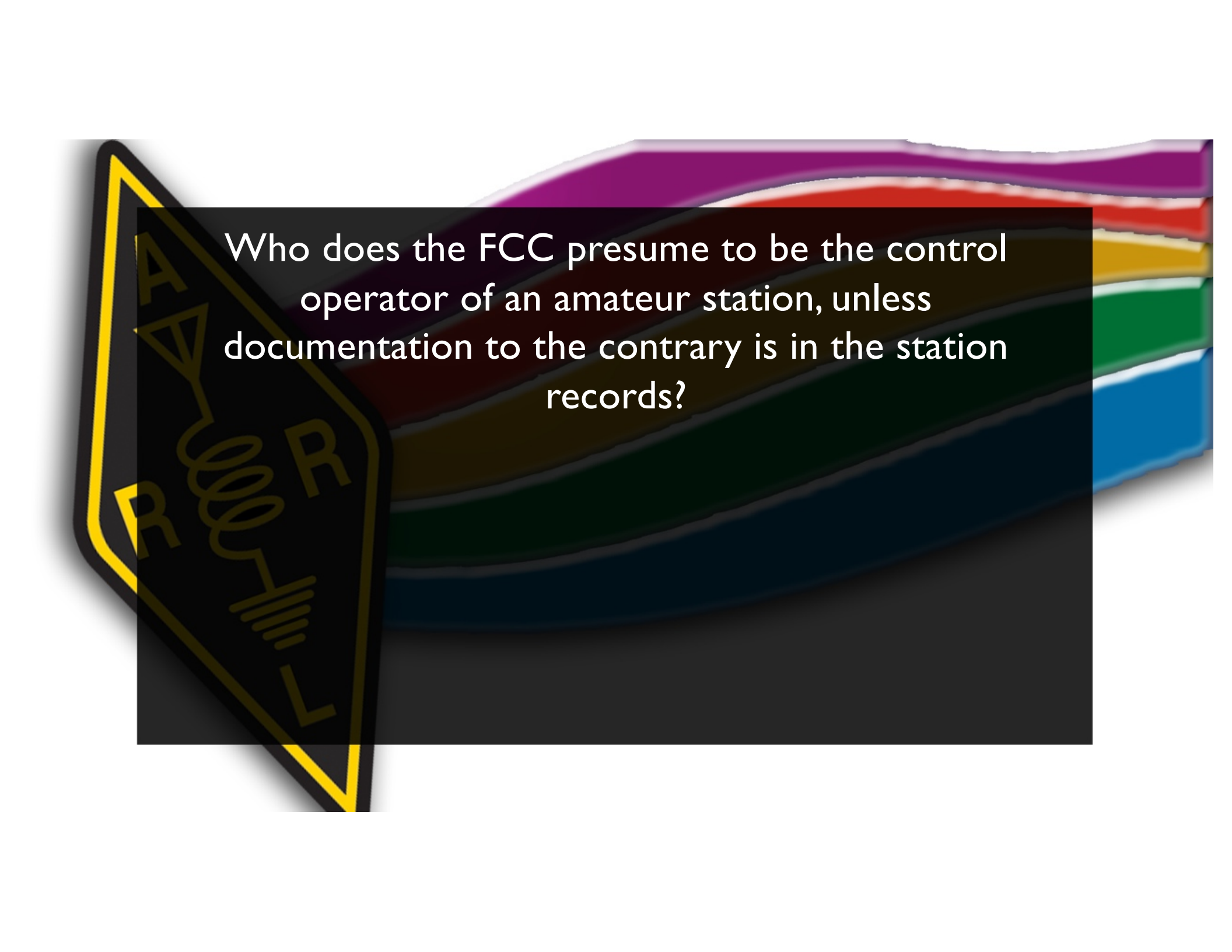
When the control operator is not the station licensee, who is responsible for the proper operation of the station?



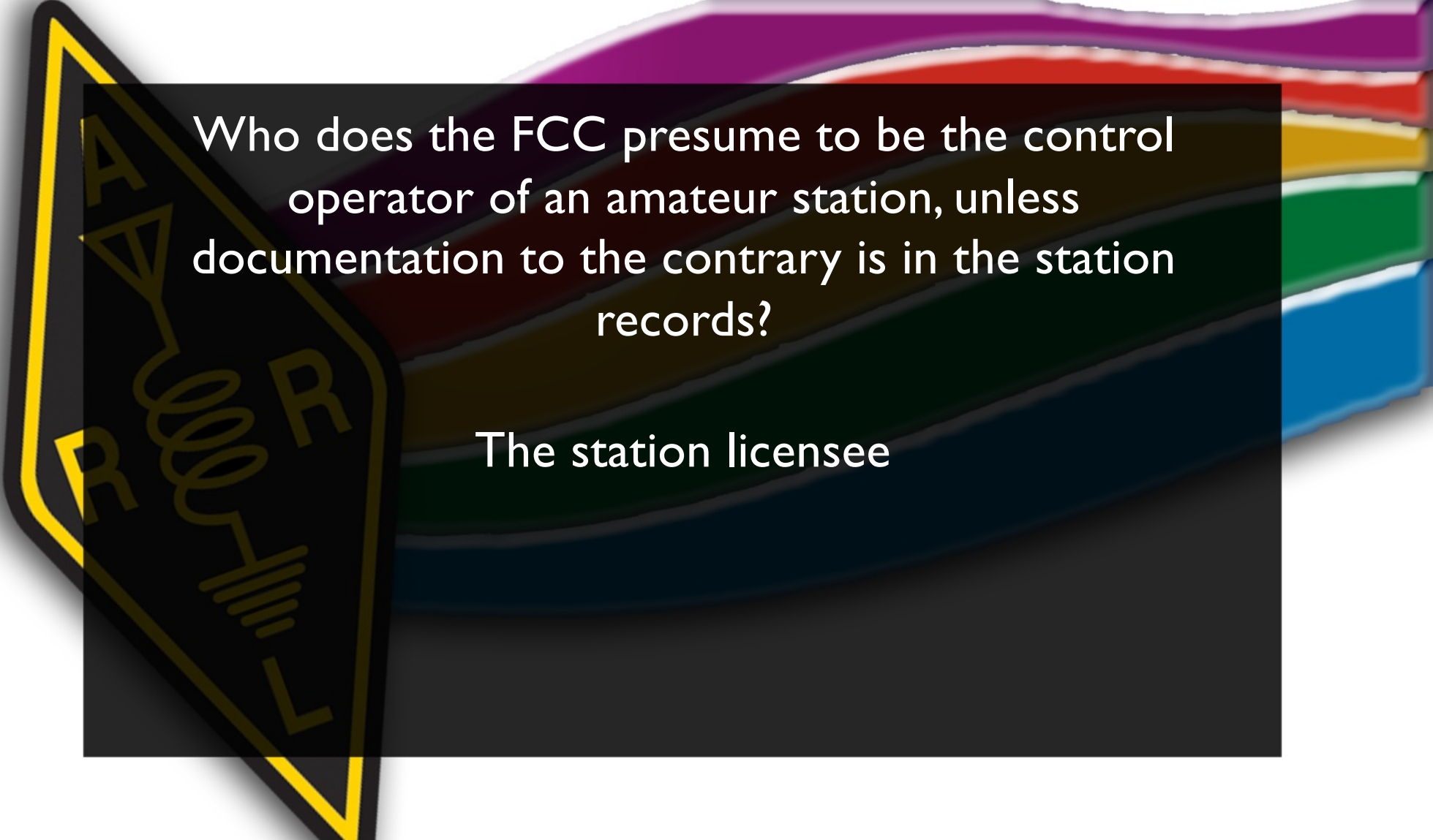


When the control operator is not the station licensee, who is responsible for the proper operation of the station?

The control operator and the station licensee are equally responsible

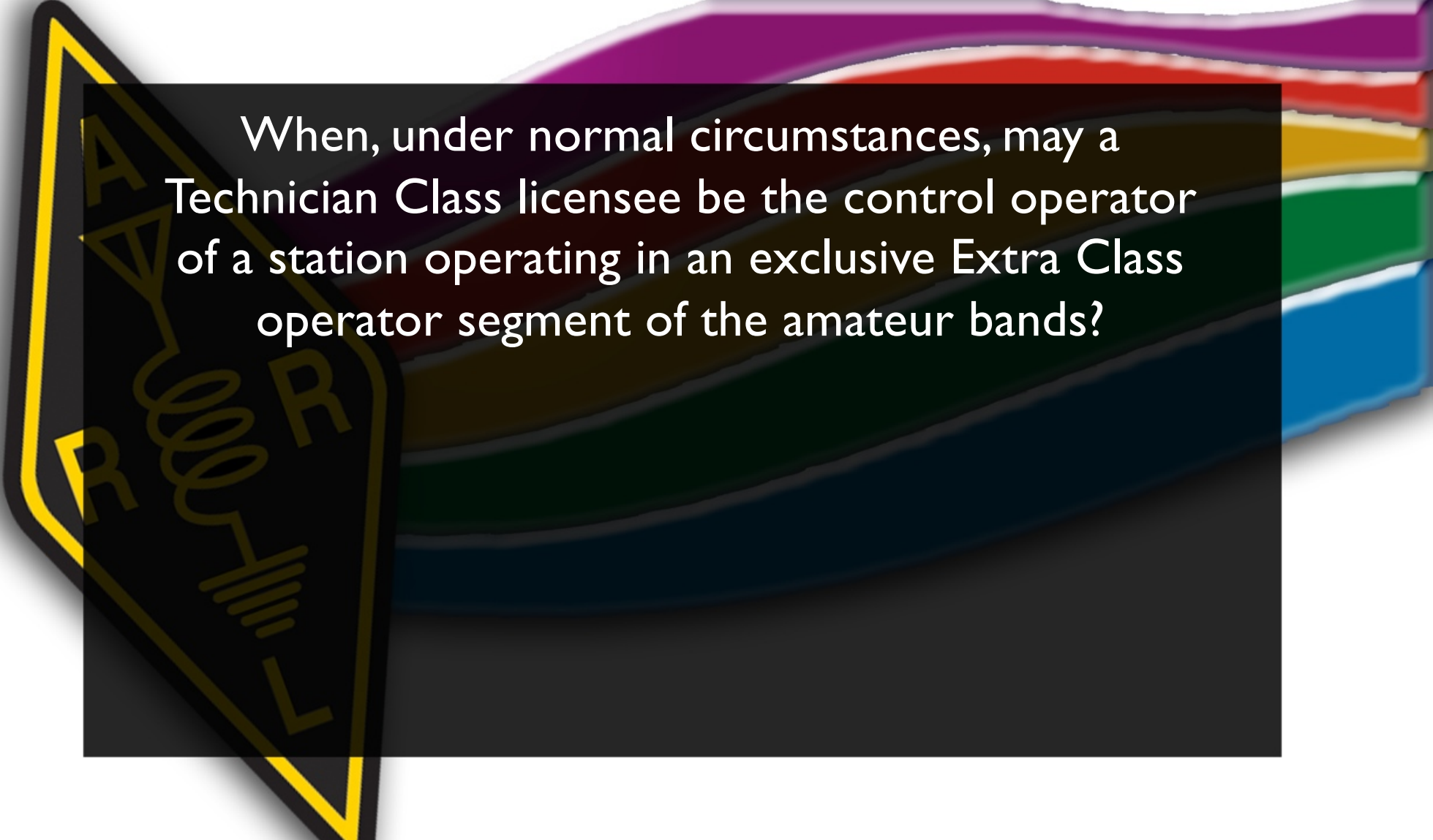


Who does the FCC presume to be the control operator of an amateur station, unless documentation to the contrary is in the station records?

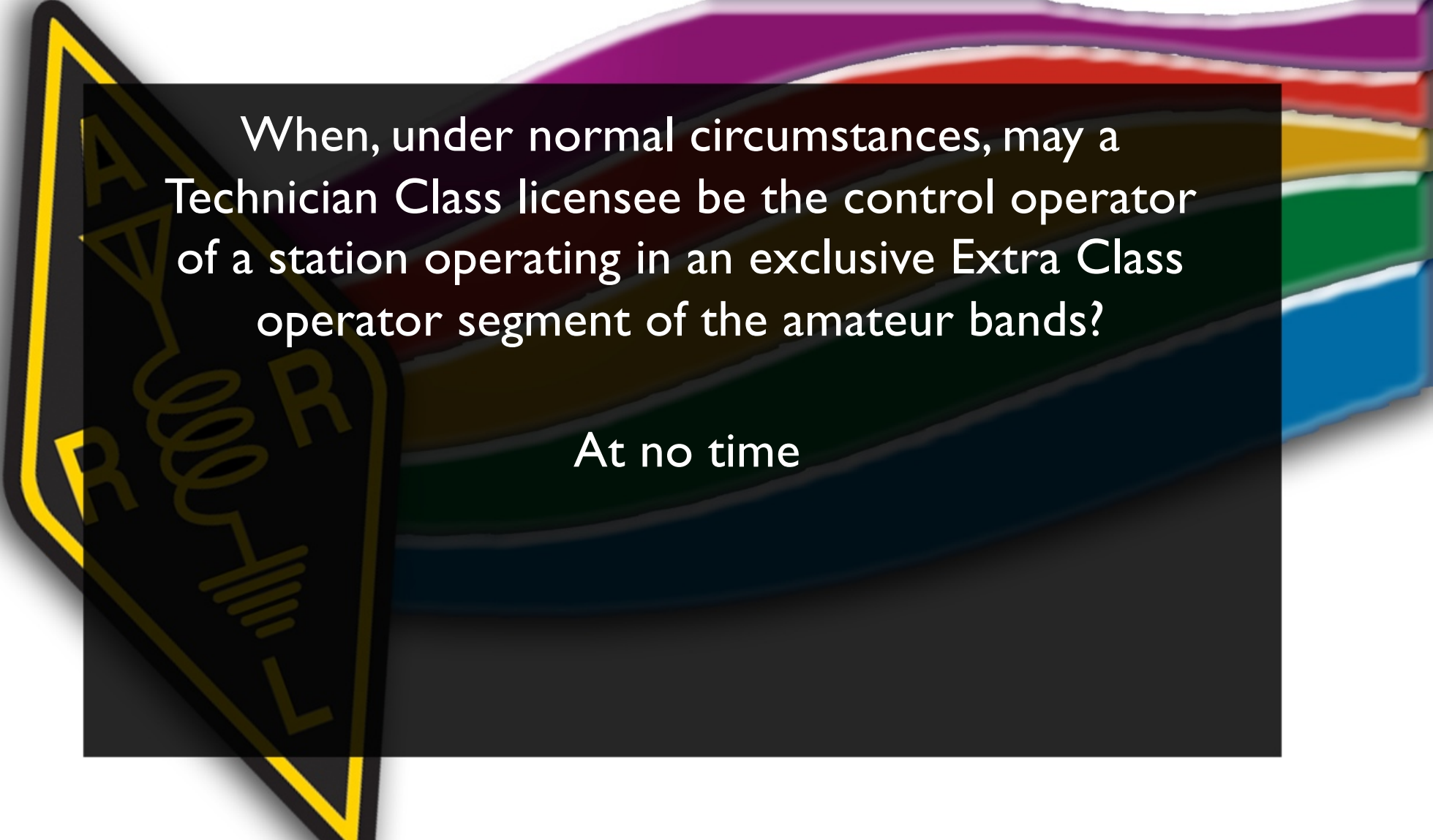


Who does the FCC presume to be the control operator of an amateur station, unless documentation to the contrary is in the station records?

The station licensee



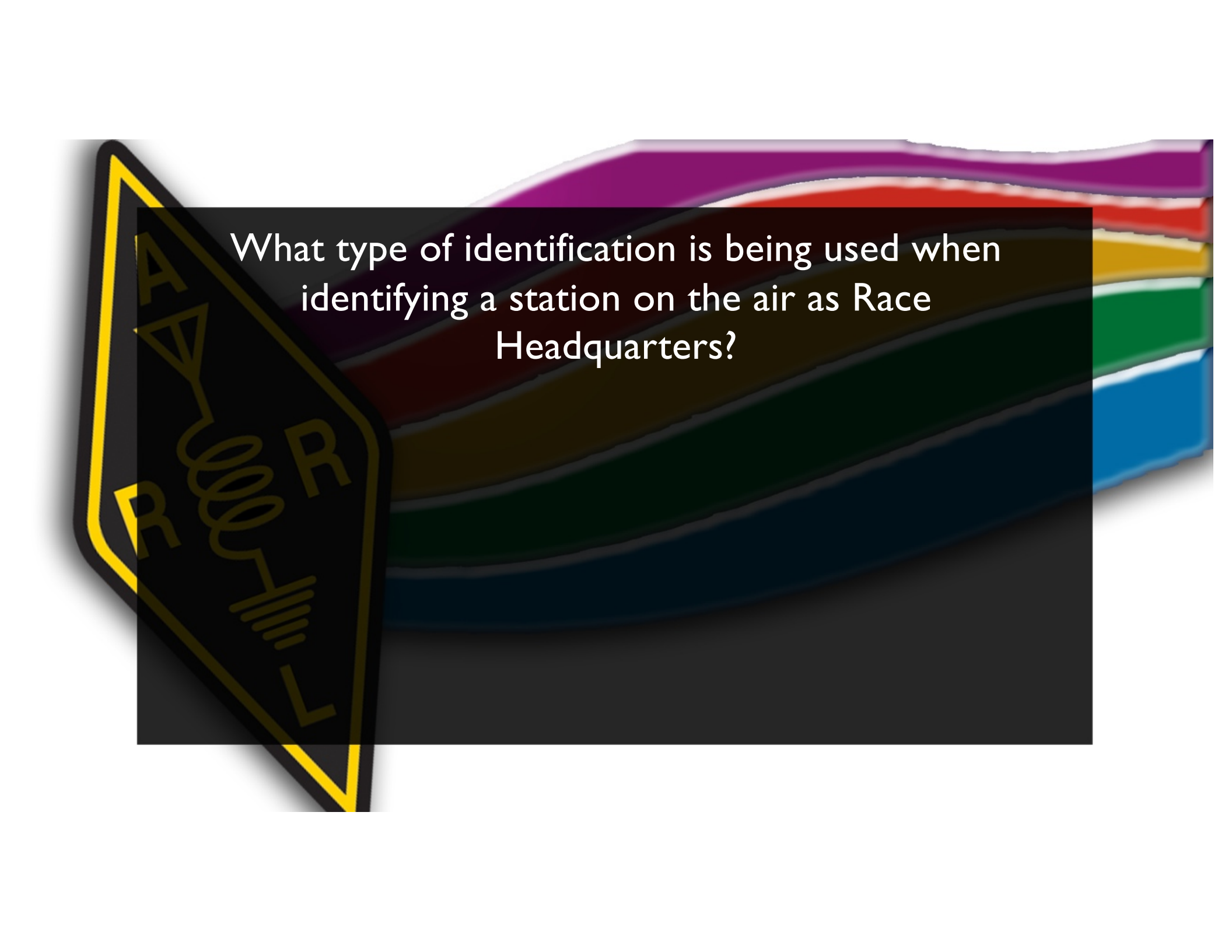
When, under normal circumstances, may a Technician Class licensee be the control operator of a station operating in an exclusive Extra Class operator segment of the amateur bands?



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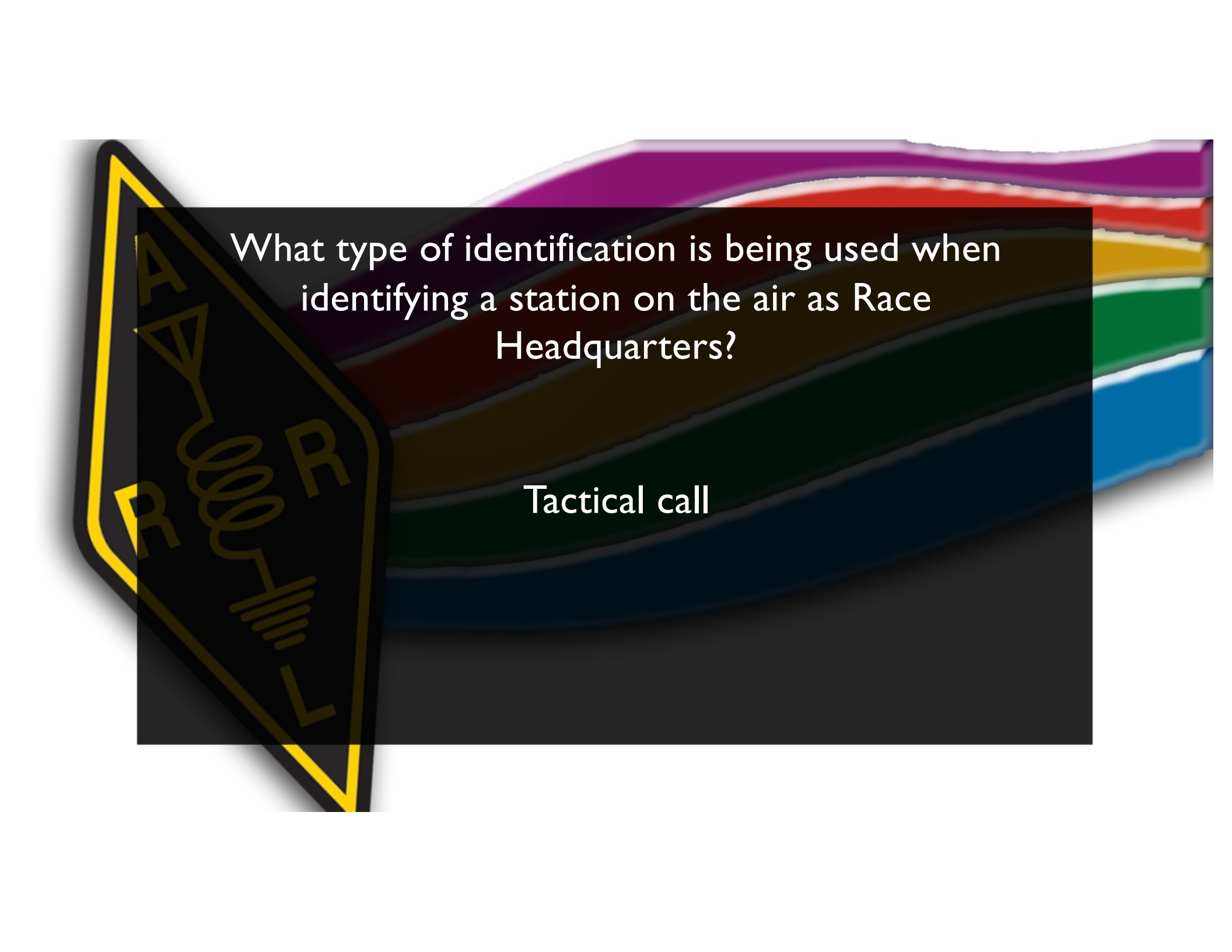
At no time





What type of identification is being used when identifying a station on the air as Race Headquarters?

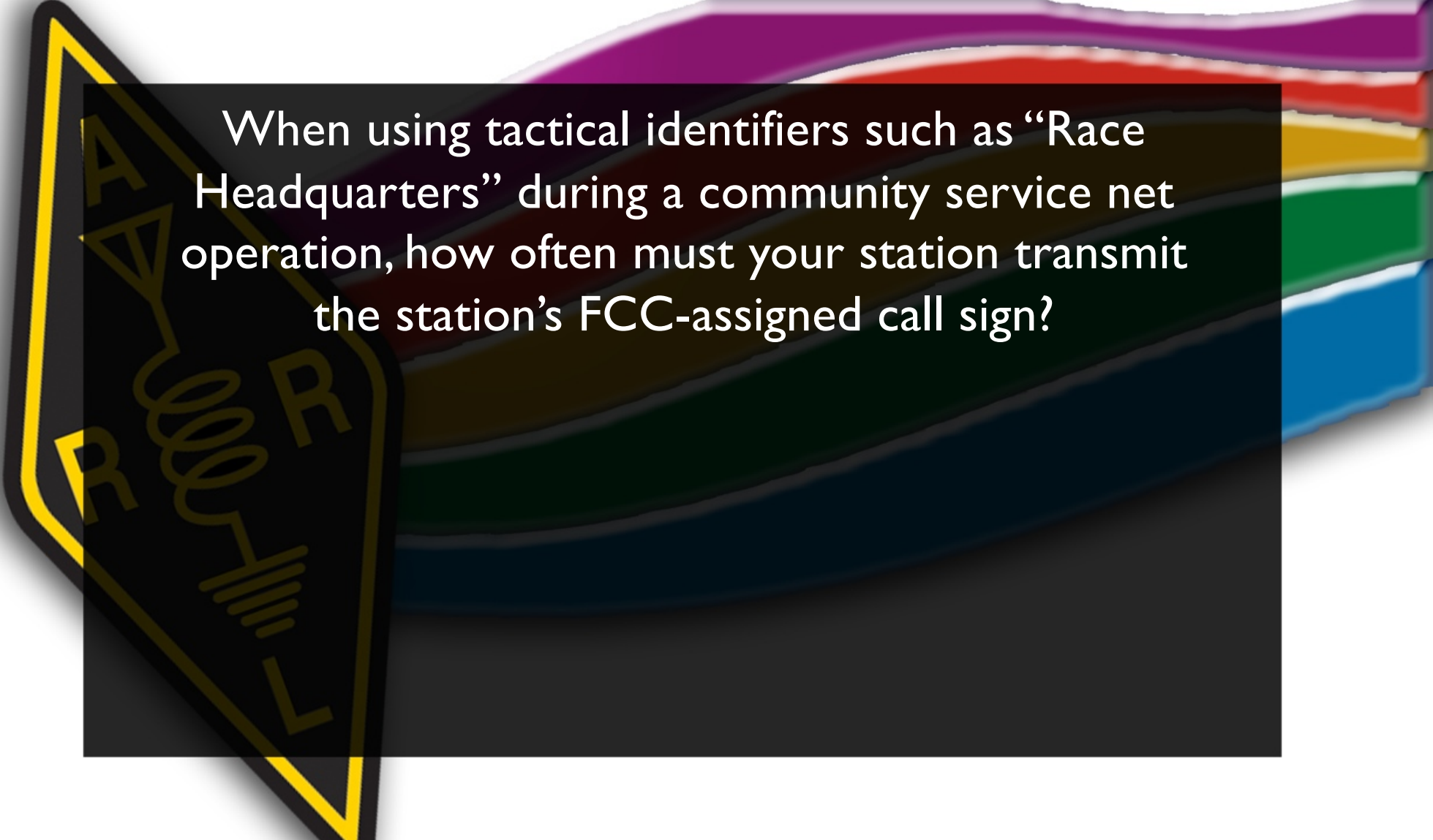




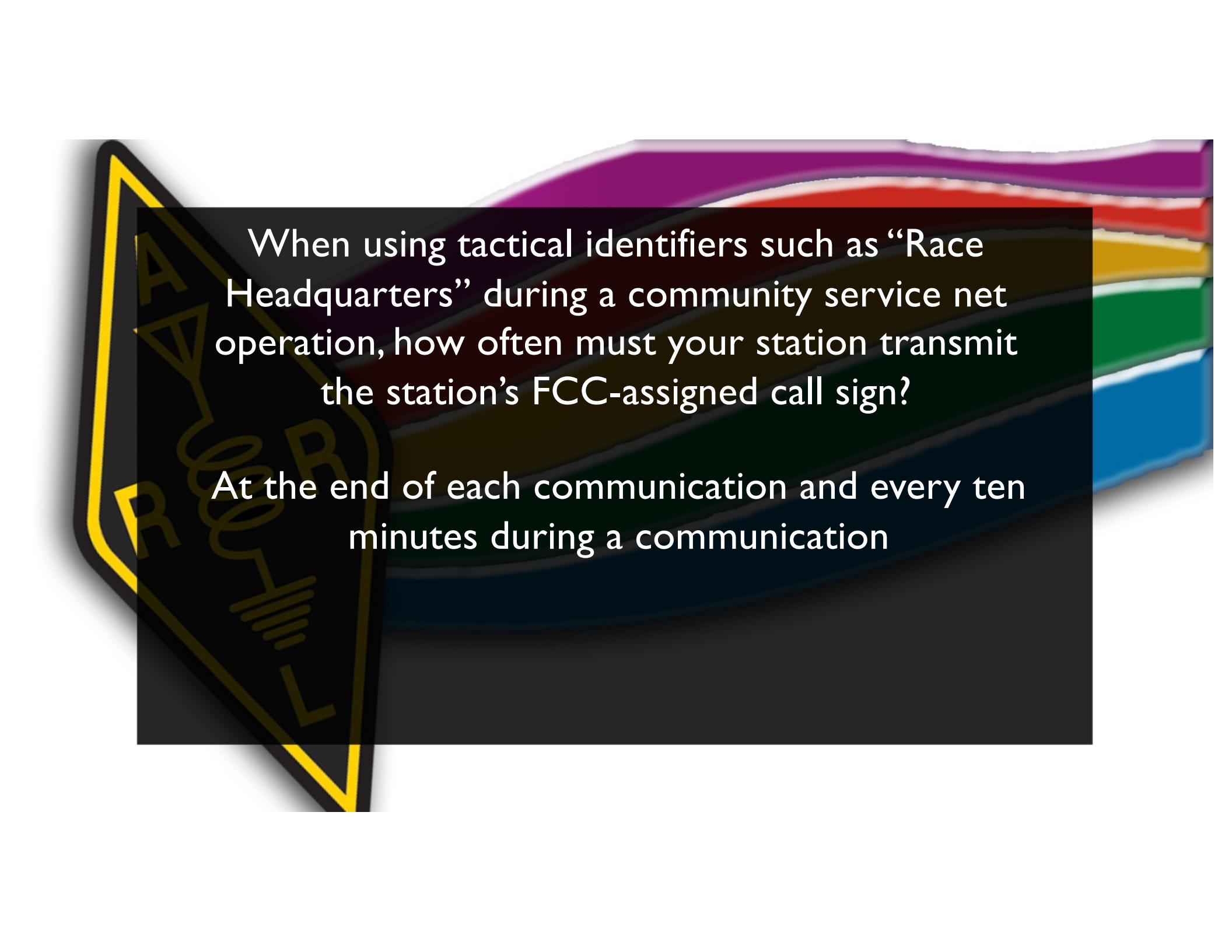
What type of identification is being used when identifying a station on the air as Race Headquarters?



Tactical call




When using tactical identifiers such as “Race Headquarters” during a community service net operation, how often must your station transmit the station’s FCC-assigned call sign?



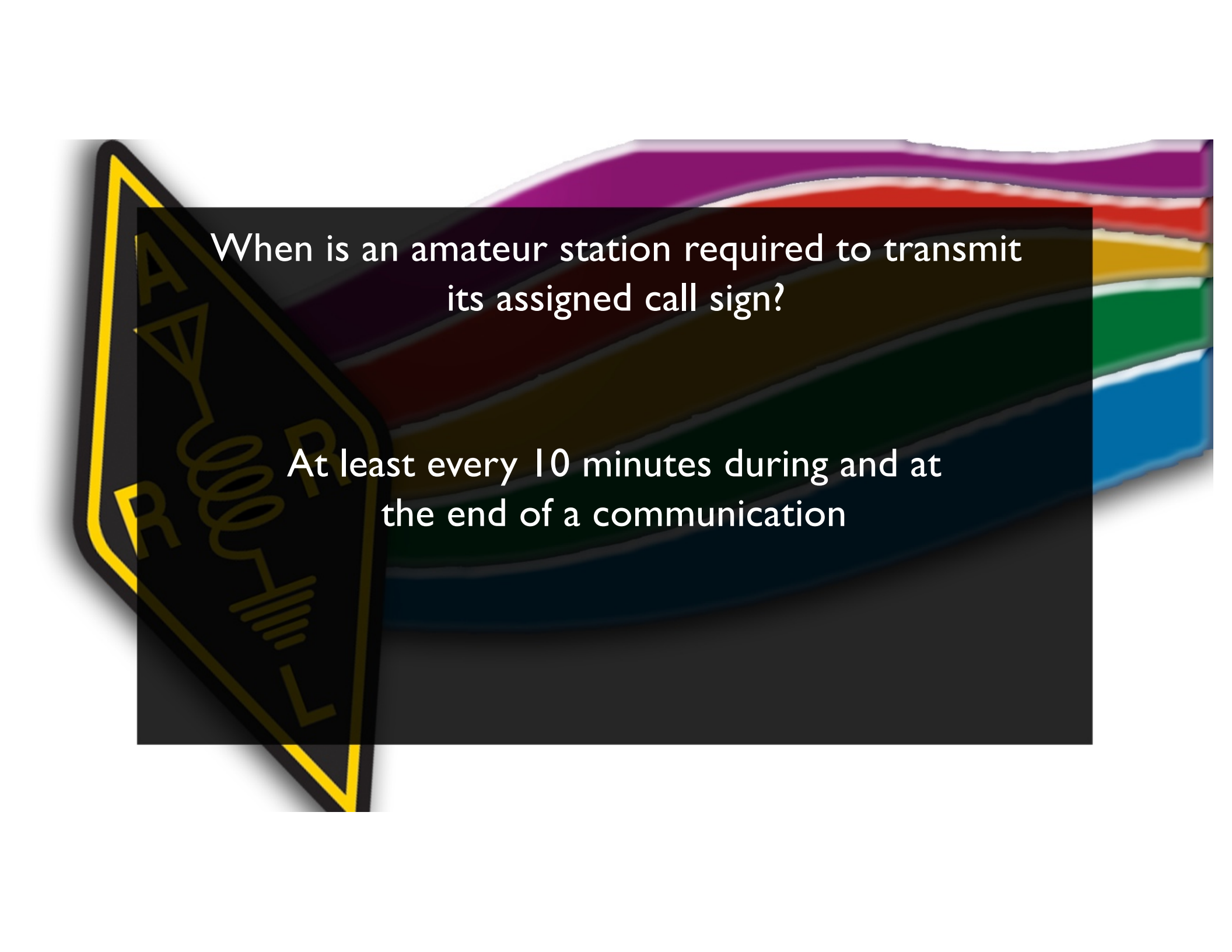
When using tactical identifiers such as “Race Headquarters” during a community service net operation, how often must your station transmit the station’s FCC-assigned call sign?

At the end of each communication and every ten minutes during a communication



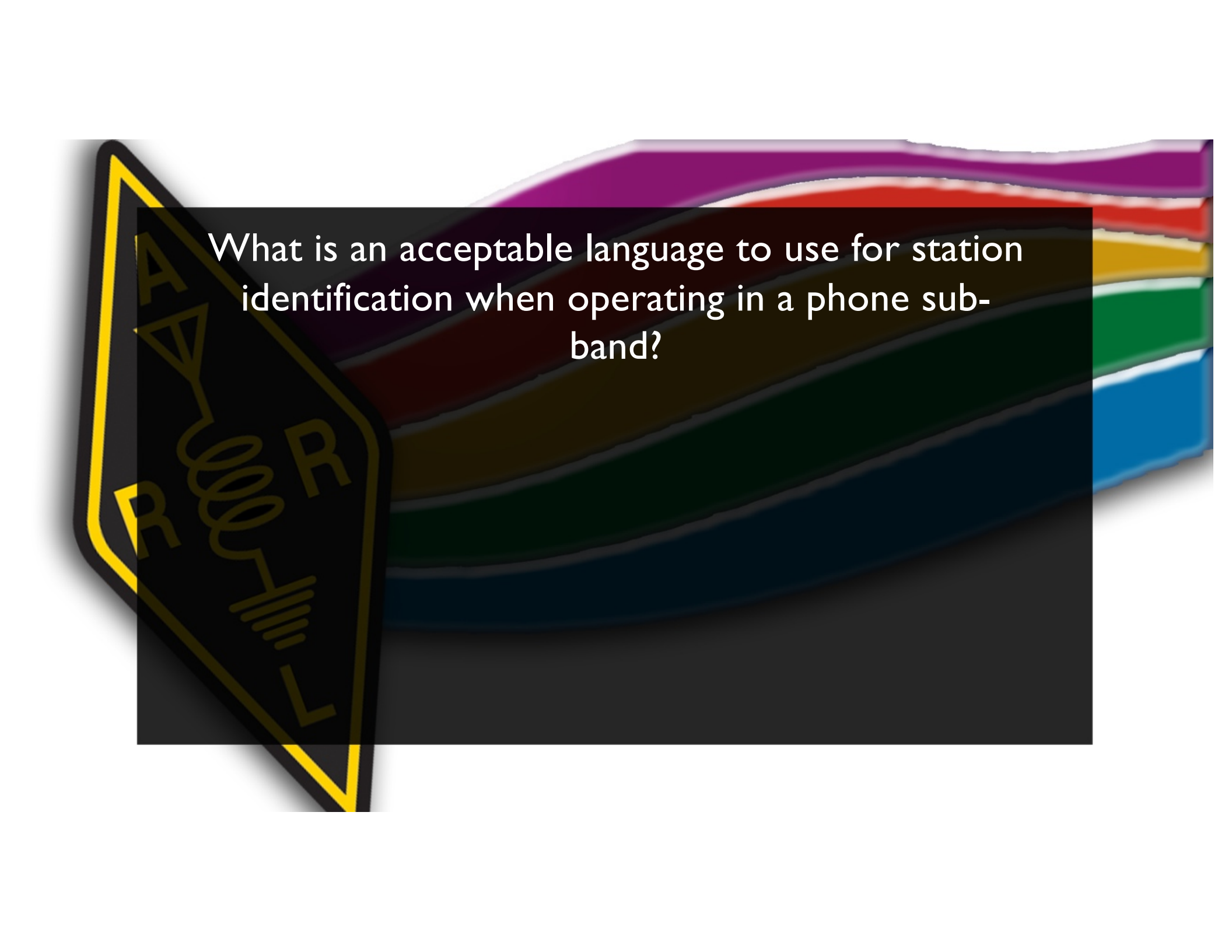
When is an amateur station required to transmit its assigned call sign?






When is an amateur station required to transmit its assigned call sign?

At least every 10 minutes during and at the end of a communication



What is an acceptable language to use for station identification when operating in a phone sub-band?



What is an acceptable language to use for station identification when operating in a phone sub-band?

The English language



What method of call sign identification is required for a station transmitting phone signals?





What method of call sign identification is required for a station transmitting phone signals?

Send the call sign using CW or phone emission





What formats of a self-assigned indicators is acceptable when identifying using a phone transmission?

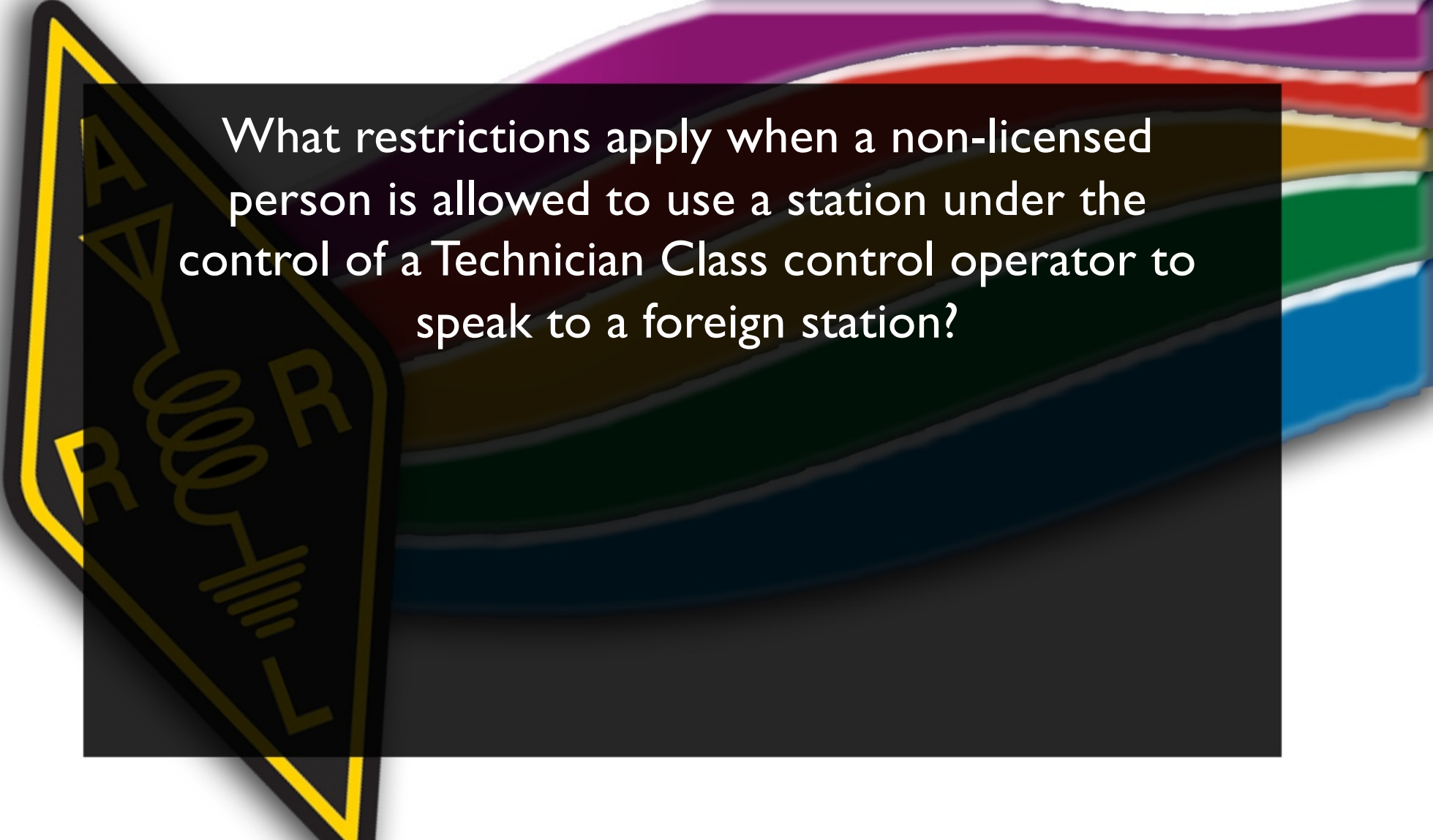


What formats of a self-assigned indicators is acceptable when identifying using a phone transmission?

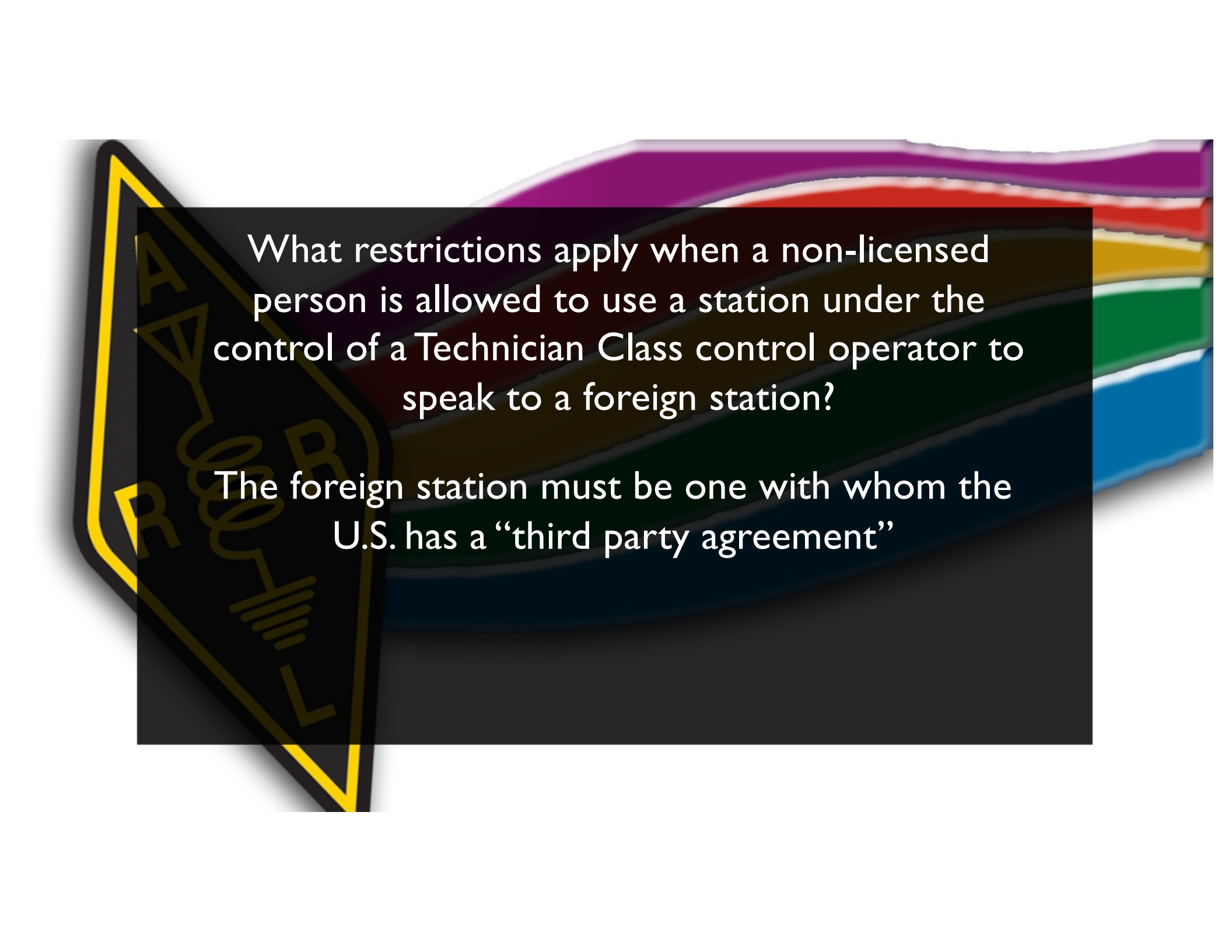
XX7XX stroke W3

XX7XX slant W3

XX7XX slash W3

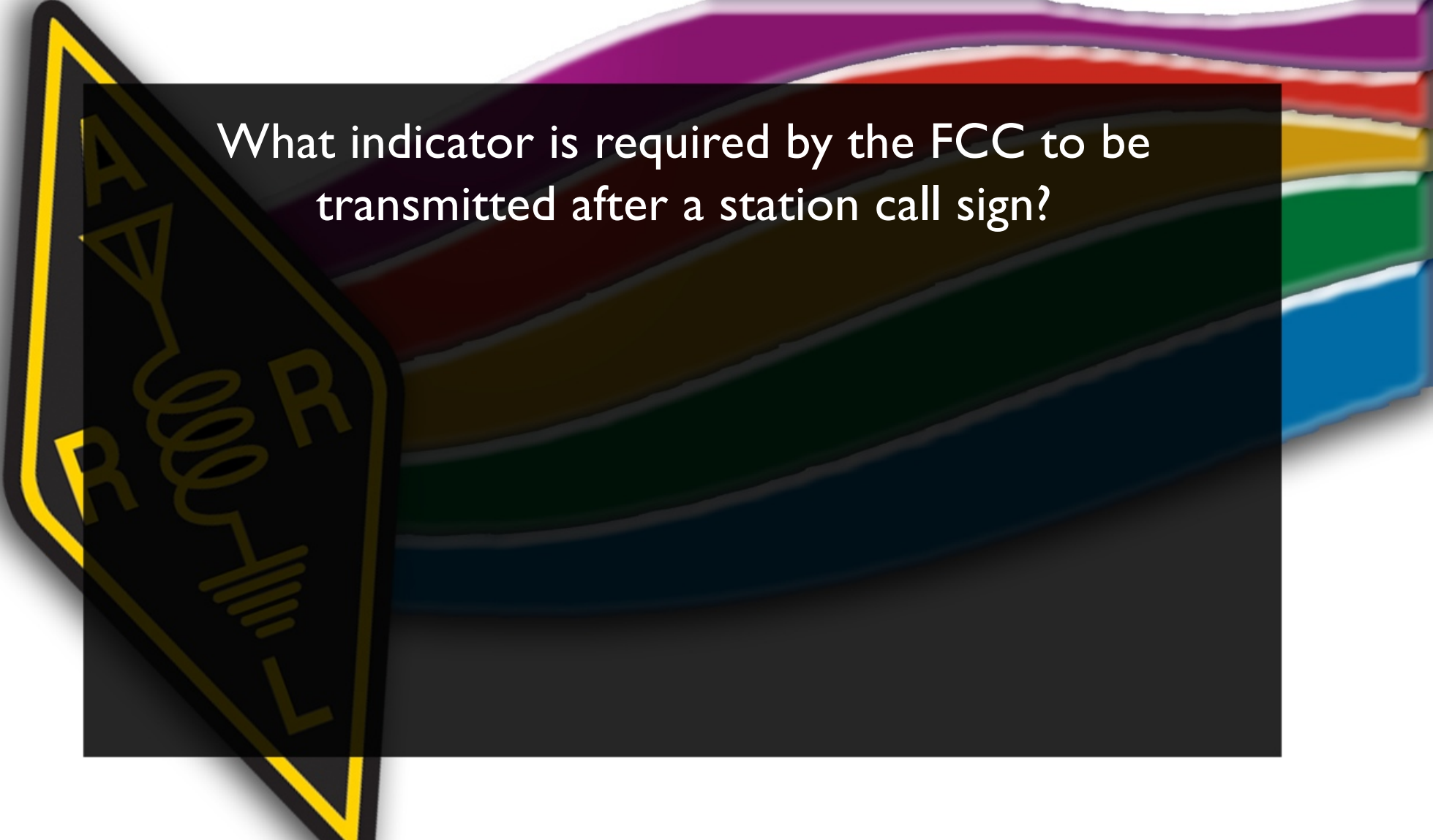


What restrictions apply when a non-licensed person is allowed to use a station under the control of a Technician Class control operator to speak to a foreign station?



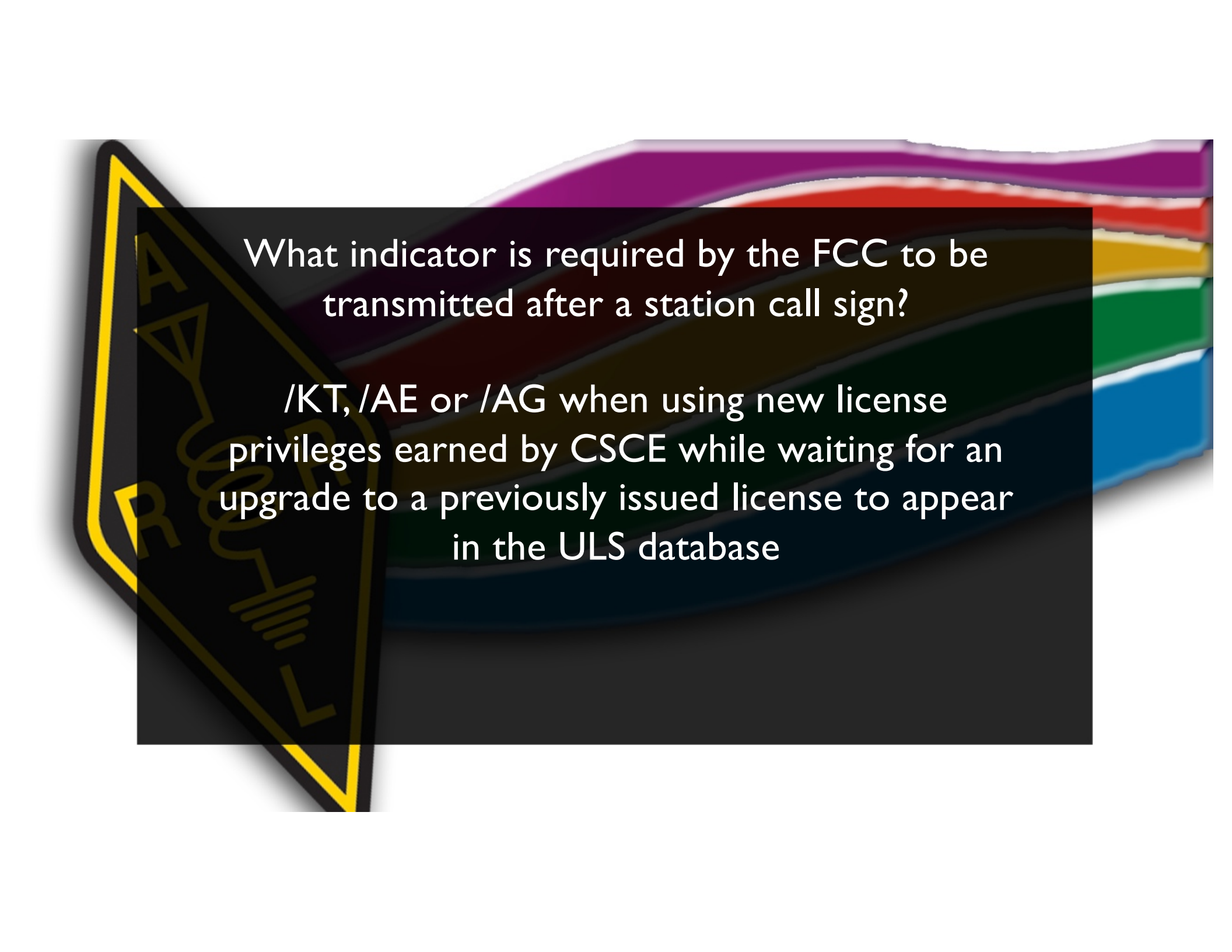
What restrictions apply when a non-licensed person is allowed to use a station under the control of a Technician Class control operator to speak to a foreign station?

The foreign station must be one with whom the U.S. has a “third party agreement”



What indicator is required by the FCC to be transmitted after a station call sign?





What indicator is required by the FCC to be transmitted after a station call sign?

/KT, /AE or /AG when using new license privileges earned by CSCE while waiting for an upgrade to a previously issued license to appear in the ULS database

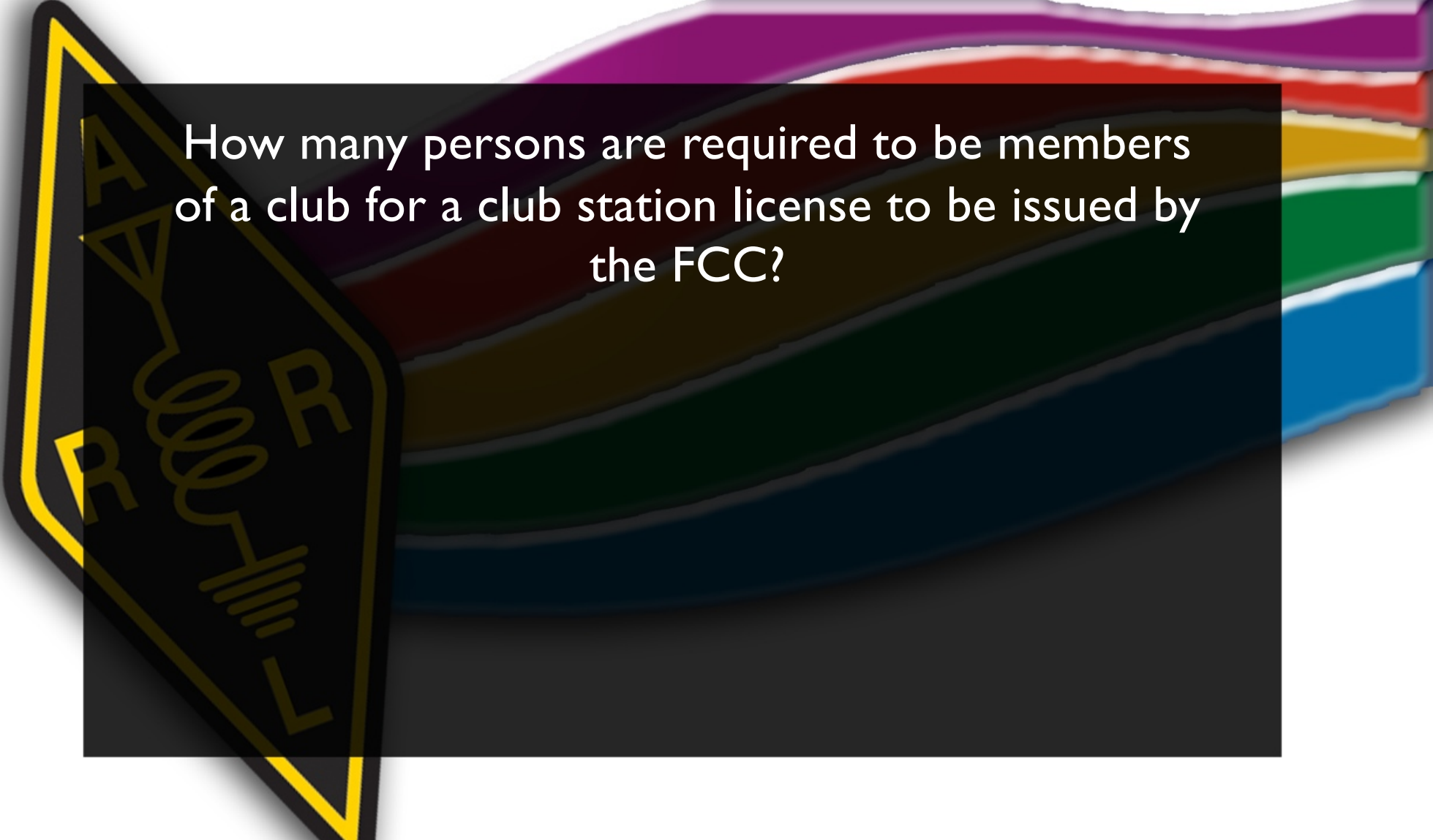
The image features a background of horizontal, wavy, multi-colored stripes in shades of purple, red, orange, yellow, green, and blue. On the left side, there is a black, diamond-shaped icon with a yellow border. Inside the icon, there is a schematic diagram of a radio receiver, showing a coil, a battery, and other electronic components. The text is centered in a white, sans-serif font over a dark grey rectangular area.

To which foreign stations do the FCC rules authorize the transmission of non-emergency third party communications?

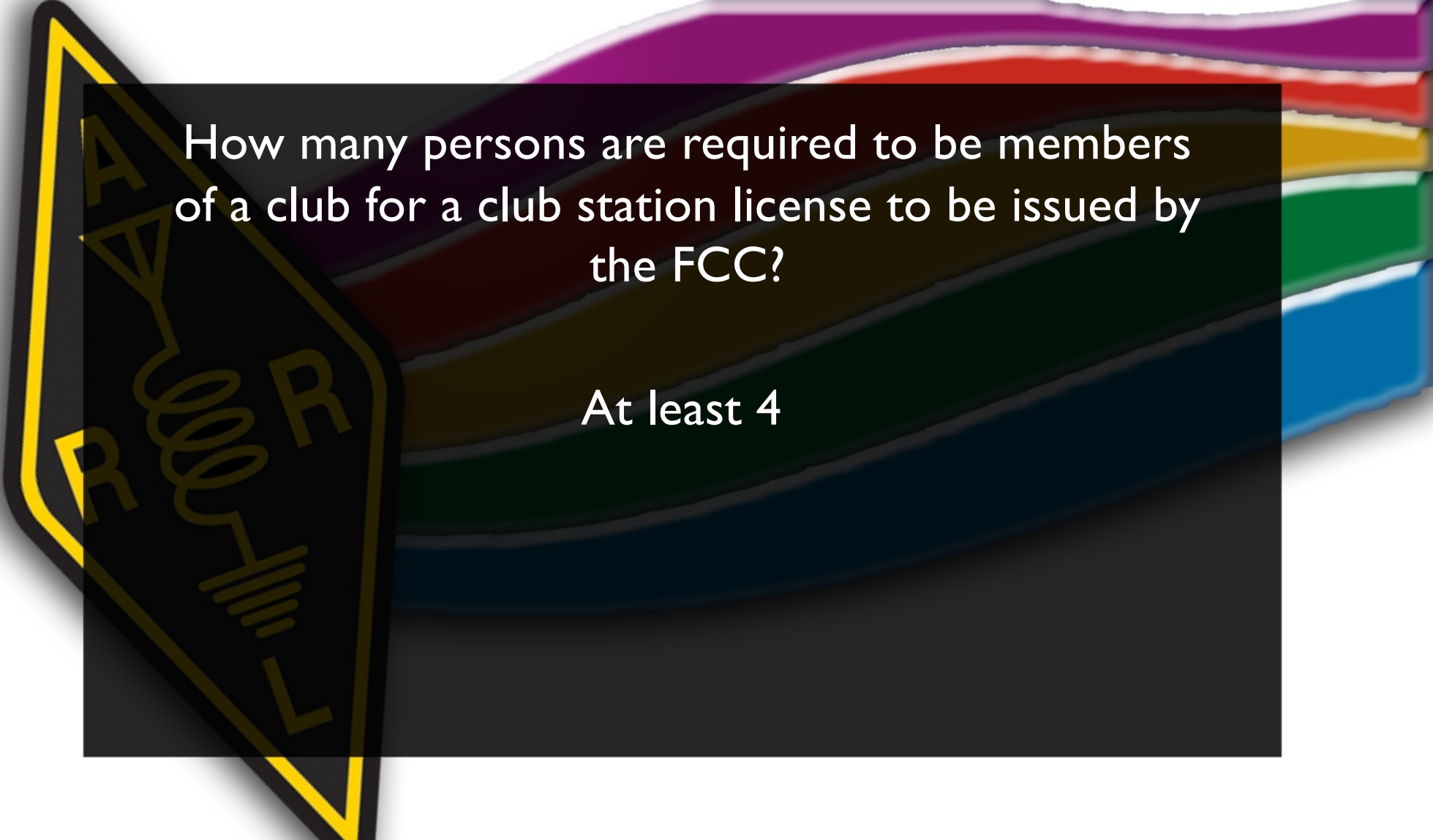


To which foreign stations do the FCC rules authorize the transmission of non-emergency third party communications?

Any station whose government permits such communications



How many persons are required to be members of a club for a club station license to be issued by the FCC?



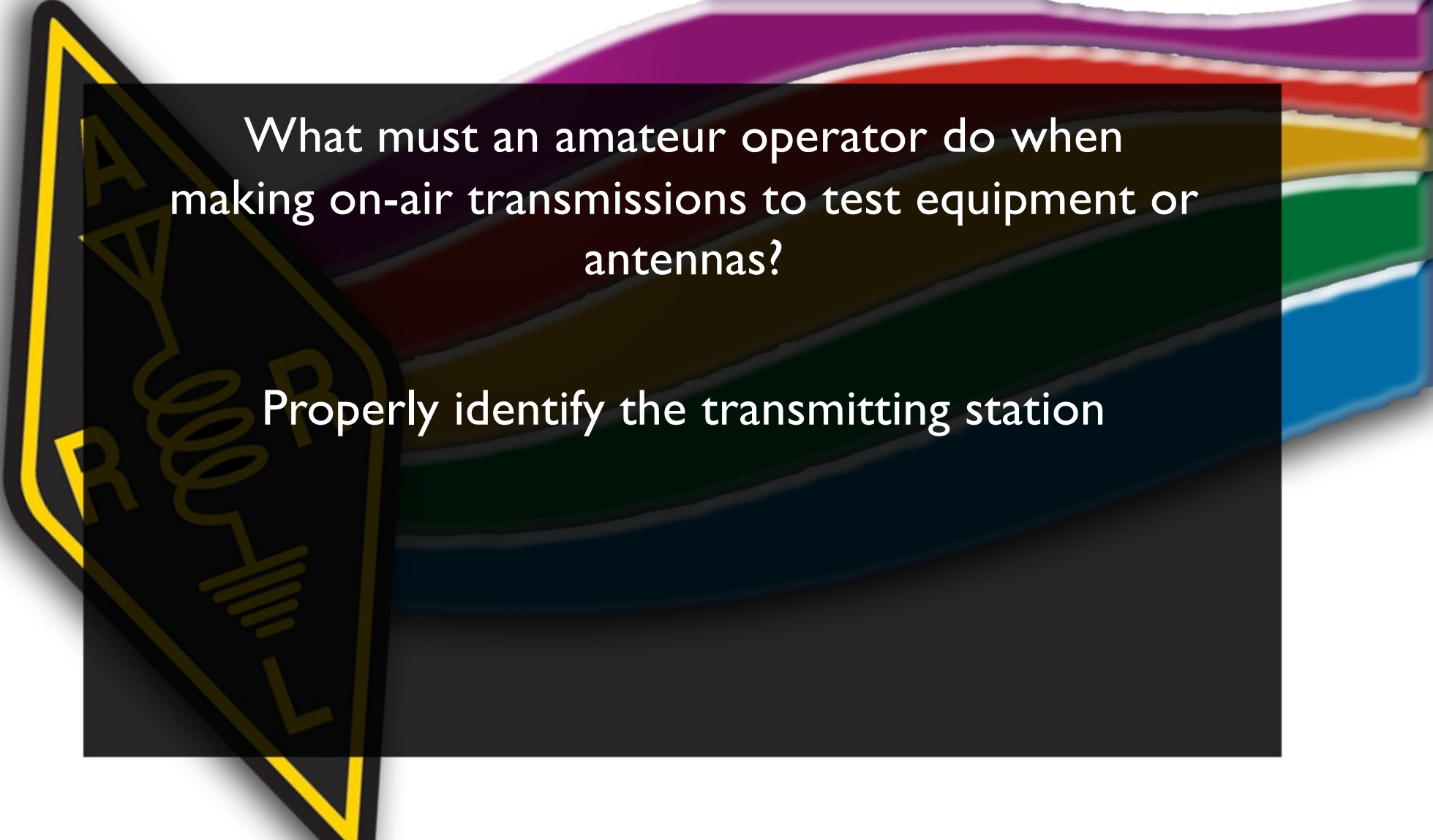
How many persons are required to be members of a club for a club station license to be issued by the FCC?

At least 4





What must an amateur operator do when making on-air transmissions to test equipment or antennas?

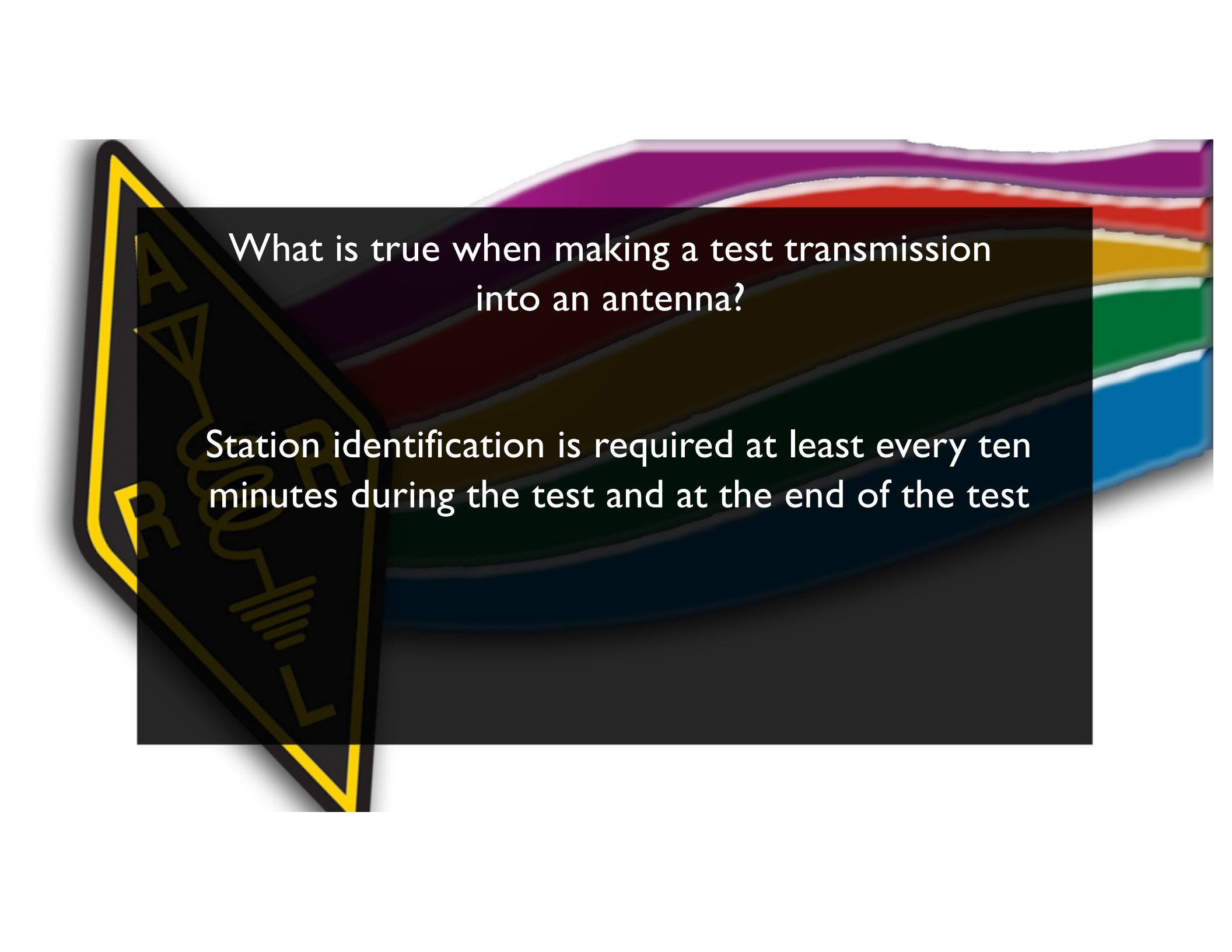


What must an amateur operator do when making on-air transmissions to test equipment or antennas?

Properly identify the transmitting station

The image features a background of horizontal, wavy, multi-colored bands in shades of purple, red, orange, yellow, green, and blue. On the left side, there is a black diamond-shaped graphic with a yellow border. Inside this graphic is a circuit diagram consisting of a battery at the bottom, a resistor labeled 'R' on the right, an inductor labeled 'L' at the top, and another resistor labeled 'R' on the left. The text 'What is true when making a test transmission into an antenna?' is centered in white on a dark grey rectangular area that overlaps the circuit diagram and the rainbow background.

What is true when making a test transmission into an antenna?



What is true when making a test transmission  
into an antenna?

Station identification is required at least every ten  
minutes during the test and at the end of the test

The image features a background of horizontal, wavy bands in various colors including purple, red, orange, yellow, green, and blue. On the left side, there is a callout graphic with a yellow border and a black background. It contains the call sign 'AA-1000R' in a stylized font, with a battery symbol below it. The text 'What method is encouraged by the FCC when identifying your station when using phone?' is centered in the upper portion of the image.

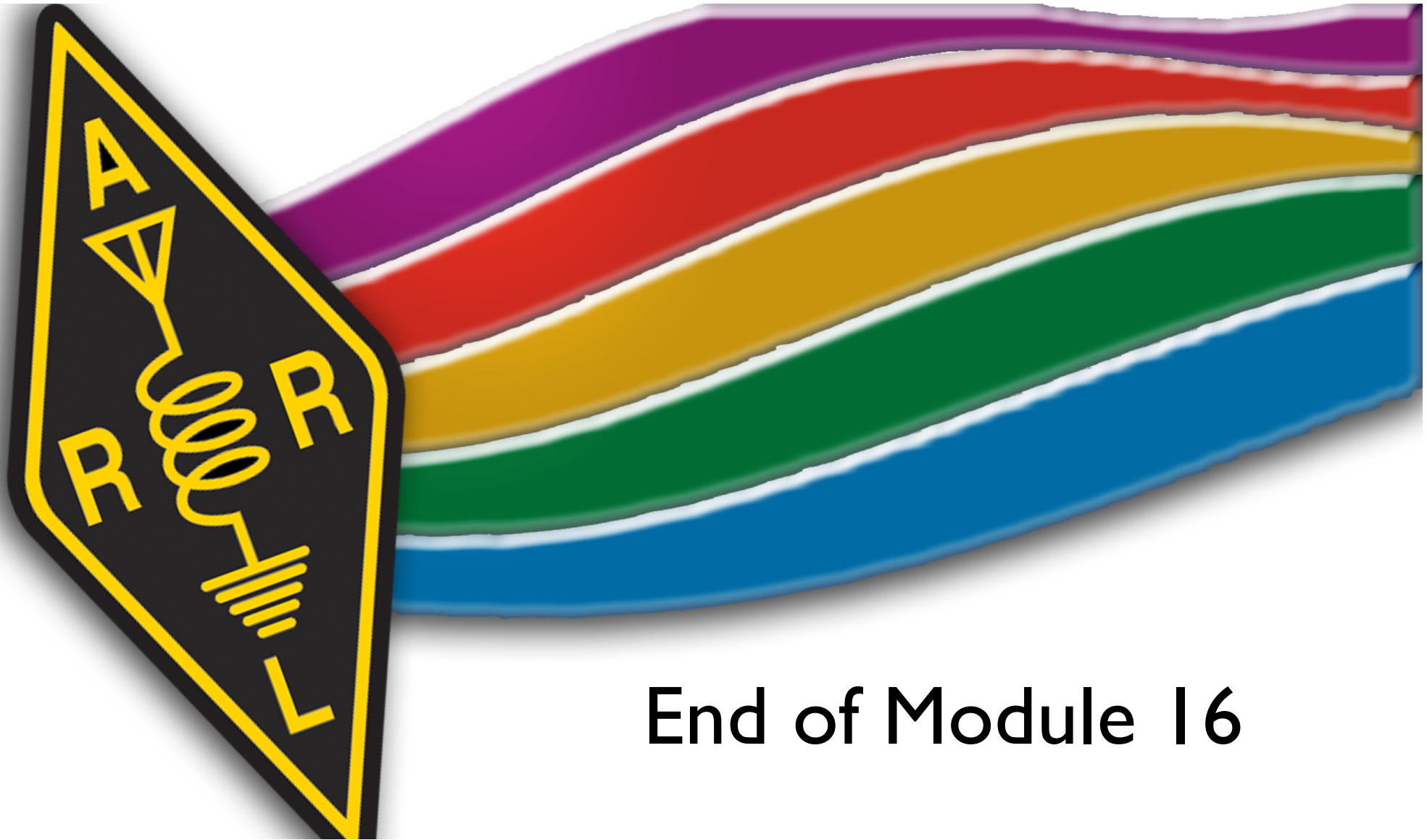
What method is encouraged by the FCC when identifying your station when using phone?





What method is encouraged by the FCC when identifying your station when using phone?

Use of a phonetic alphabet



End of Module 16