



Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program

The Ohio Association of Broadcasters (OAB), in cooperation with the FCC, has established the Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program (ABIP) to help stations ensure they are in compliance with certain FCC regulations. The OAB's ABIP program is implemented pursuant to an agreement between OAB and the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Under this program, a station inspected by an OAB technical inspector, and certified to be in compliance with certain of 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 derived from the applicable FCC Broadcast Station Self-Inspection Checklists. Although copies of the checklists are no longer available on the FCC's website, archived versions may be access at <https://oab.org/engineering/abip-program/fcc-self-inspection-checklist/>.

The inspection will typically include the following:

- Inspection of the station licenses to assure compliance by the station with transmitter power, directional AM parameters and auxiliary antenna operations.
- Inspection of the control point and associated transmitter operation, required station logs, transmission standards, and compliance with tower regulations.
- Inspection of the station's transmitter sites, including 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.
- Inspection of the station's compliance with EAS requirements, including equipment, functionality, logging, review of Chief Operator requirements, and required Equipment Performance Measurements.
- While not part of the immunity from routine FCC inspections, the inspector will also review and provide feedback on the contents of the station's online public file (OPIF). The OPIF review may occur before, during, or after the on-site technical inspection.

Following the OAB inspection, the inspector will notify the station of any detected discrepancies from the FCC's technical rules that were identified during the inspection. The inspector will give the station a reasonable period of time to correct the discrepancies, and where necessary, a re-inspection may be conducted.

When the inspector is satisfied that the station is in compliance and has taken all necessary remedial actions, the OAB, upon approval of the inspector, will send a Certificate of Compliance to the station and to the FCC.

Upon receipt of the OAB Certificate of Compliance, the FCC 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, including those related to political broadcasting or EEO materials and at license renewal time;
2. Inspections concerning tower safety; and
3. Complaint-driven inspections.

Immunity during Inspection Period

Stations that apply for an inspection through the OAB ABIP 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. Upon certification of successful completion of the ABIP inspection, stations receive three years of immunity from FCC routine random inspections.

In order to receive immunity during the 150-day 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, at which time the three-year limited immunity period will begin.

Cost of Inspection

Below is the fee schedule for ABIP inspections. The OAB pays the inspector’s travel expenses for OAB member stations. Non-member stations and stations requiring a re-inspection will be invoiced for the inspector’s travel expenses.

Station Type	Fee for OAB members	Fee for non-members
AM or FM station	\$385	\$580
Additional station(s) with co-located transmitters	\$220 each	\$330 each
Translators (located within 25 miles of main studio)*	\$165 each	\$220 each
Translators (located more than 25 miles of main studio)*	\$250 each	\$300 each
Directional antenna monitor points	\$55 each	\$55 each
Television station	\$770	\$1,155
Reinspection (if completed within 60 days)	50% of original inspection fee	50% of original inspection fee
Reinspection (if completed after 60 days of original inspection)	Full fee	Full fee

***Note: the main station must be scheduled for an inspection at the same time.**

Stations will be invoiced for payment at the time of application. For those stations that have opted to receive immunity during the inspection process, payment must be received by the OAB in order to trigger the 150-day grace period described above.

Registering for an Inspection

OAB ABIP inspection applications may be submitted via:

1. **Electronic application**

Fill out the application electronically and submit online at <http://bit.ly/abipapplication>.

2. **Email/Fax**

Complete the following application and email to oab@oab.org with “OAB ABIP Program” in the subject line, or fax to 614.228.8133.

3. **U.S. Postal Service**

Complete the following application and mail to:

OAB ABIP Program
17 South High St., Ste. 1010
Columbus, OH 43215-3481

Questions?

For additional information, contact the OAB’s Mariah West at mwest@oab.org or 614.228.4052.



APPLICATION FOR ABIP INSPECTION

Complete one application form per company. Include the **call letters of all stations to be inspected.**

Company: _____

Contact for Inspection: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Billing Contact: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How many stations will be inspected? _____

Current certificate expiration date: _____

Please provide the following information about each station to be inspected (add additional sheets as necessary):

Call Letters:	
Type of Station – FM Station; AM Station; Translator (indicate < or > 25 miles of main studio); Television Station:	
Number of Monitor Points (if applicable):	
Frequency/Channel:	
City of License:	
Is the station’s transmitter co-located with the transmitter for another station being inspected?	
Transmitter Address (if different from studio address):	

Call Letters:	
Type of Station – FM Station; AM Station; Translator (indicate < or > 25 miles of main studio); Television Station:	
Number of Monitor Points (if applicable):	
Frequency/Channel:	
City of License:	
Is the station’s transmitter co-located with the transmitter for another station being inspected?	
Transmitter Address (if different from studio address):	

Call Letters:	
Type of Station – FM Station; AM Station; Translator (indicate < or > 25 miles of main studio); Television Station:	
Number of Monitor Points (if applicable):	
Frequency/Channel:	
City of License:	
Is the station’s transmitter co-located with the transmitter for another station being inspected?	
Transmitter Address (if different from studio address):	

IMMUNITY DURING INSPECTION PERIOD

Stations that apply for an inspection through the OAB’s ABIP 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. FCC immunity does not include station online public files.

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 if 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 that the billing contact listed will receive an invoice for our inspection and we agree to pay the invoice within 60 days. I also understand that the Certificate(s) of Compliance will not be issued (regardless of passing status) until the invoice is paid.

I agree to make station staff available to accompany the OAB inspector and provide information necessary to complete the inspection as scheduled.

Lastly, I understand that the station is still be subject to the following FCC inspections: (1) public file inspections relating to political broadcasting or EEO materials, and at license renewal time; (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, DAMAGES, CLAIMS AND LIABILITY OF EVERY KIND WHATSOEVER IN CONNECTION WITH, ARISING OUT OF, OR NOT IDENTIFIED BY THE INSPECTION.

Signature

Name Title

EFFECTIVE DATE *(to be completed by OAB)*
