

## Don Campbell

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**Subject:** FW: Ham Radio License Examination and Chapters 7 & 8

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**Subject:** [Federal Registration Number](#)

This is a new requirement - you will need to obtain a Federal Registration Number (FRN) prior to the exam date. See the excerpt from the ARRL VE Newsletter below and follow the yellow highlighted link for more information. This should be a quick and easy process and is a necessary part of obtaining your license. You should also take note of the second paragraph regarding personal information that becomes publicly available.

*[Don Campbell]* [Follow the highlighted link below to the ARRL page for instructions on obtaining your FRN.](#)

### **ARRL VE Newsletter October 2020 – EXAM MAKER**

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#### **Inside this VE E-Newsletter:**

FRNs at Exam Sessions

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#### **FRNs at Exam Sessions**

The FCC has indicated VECs/VE teams should discontinue the practice of accepting social security numbers at exam sessions.

Examinees should register in the FCC CORES registration system and receive an FRN before exam day.

The FCC also advised VE teams to make it clear to candidates that some information about them will be made publicly available on the FCC's website, including their name, mailing address, and felony conviction status.

*“Dorothy Stifflemire, the Associate Division Chief of the WTB Technologies Systems and Innovation Division told VECs that new license applicants should create an FCC user account and register their social security number in the FCC Commission Registration System (CORES) before attending exam sessions. Registrants will be assigned a Federal Registration Number (FRN) which will be used in all license transactions with the FCC.”*

She explained that auto-registration in CORES for examinees using a social security number will be going away. In addition, since no mail is being sent because of the COVID-19 pandemic, applicants will not receive their auto-created password and FCC FRN and will not be able to access their

personal license record in the FCC License Manager database or their FRN record in CORES. Going forward, she said, VECs should make sure all applicants are registered and have an FRN before exam day.

*“Additionally, FCC Mobility Division (MD) Deputy Chief Tom Derenge recommended that VECs make it clear to applicants that their address will be public information when the new license is issued. He suggested advising that an alternative address, such as a PO Box or work address, would be acceptable. Derenge pointed out that once an address is in the FCC database, it’s nearly impossible to be permanently removed.”*

See the news item about FRN use at exam sessions and other VEC/FCC information.  
NCVEC Conference News item link:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/ncvec-holds-its-annual-meeting-via-teleconference>

Examinees can be directed to this information on our website or directly to the FCC website.

FRN registration information (see item #4): <http://www.arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session>

FCC Privacy information: <http://www.arrl.org/fcc-licensee-privacy>

FCC CORES User Account and Registration: <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>

We urge our VE teams to change procedures BEFORE the FCC turns off the social security number auto-registration feature.

Otherwise this could cause a delay in processing applications to the FCC later on.

## **Instructions for Examinees Registering for an FCC FRN before Exam Day**

### **Applying for a new Amateur Radio license?**

Register in **CORES** (C**O**mmission **R**Egistration **S**ystem) and receive your **FRN** (Federal Registration Number) before sitting for your exam to ensure your new license is processed quickly and easily through the FCC’s ULS (Universal Licensing System).

To conduct business with the FCC, you must register through FCC CORES and be assigned an FRN. This number will be used to uniquely identify you in all transactions with the FCC.

View the FCC web page [New Users guide to ULS](#) for step by step instructions on the registration process or the [Commission Registration System Video Tutorials](#) page for videos that help guide CORES users through a variety of situations.

For assistance, submit a help request on the [FCC’s Support Services](#) page or call FCC at 877-480-3201 (Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. ET).

### **What if a candidate shows up on exam day without an FRN?**

Please have the candidate register in **CORES** at the session on their smart phone or on a computer. Candidates should not need to be turned away from the session because the registration process only takes a few minutes to complete. Additionally, candidates that pre-register in CORES will have all their login and password information and can access their FCC license record as soon as it’s issued.

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