

Revised FCC Form 605 will ask applicants “The Felony Question”

The following change is being made to the FCC Form 605. The info was supplied by the ARRL.

The Communications Act (federal laws overseeing communications) requires the Commission to evaluate whether an applicant is qualified to be issued any FCC license (both commercial and amateur).

This enables the FCC to determine whether an applicant is eligible under sections 310(d) and 308(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to hold or have ownership interest in a station license.

The FCC 605 Form Application is not just used for the Amateur Radio Service.

It's used for authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Services.

The Commission is revising the basic qualifications section of this form to include a question regarding whether an application has been convicted of a felony in any state or federal court.

Applicants' responses and explanations to the basic qualification question (felony question), will be used to determine eligibility to be a Commission licensee.

The question used to be on the old Form 610 amateur application and at some point that question fell off the newer forms.

However, it was retained on other FCC license applications such as forms 601, 603, etc.

FCC determined that they needed to add the question back to the 605 Form and it is the exact question used on the other FCC forms.

This action will correct its omission on 605 Form and bring FCC into compliance with the Communications Act.

Therefore, there is not a Report and Order and there is not a public comments period on this form update as it is already in the rules.

The NCVEC 605 Form (used at exam sessions) must also be updated to include the basic qualifications question.

For potential amateur license holders, this means not just that they passed the examination but also that they meet the character requirements.

If the answer to the basic qualification question (felony question) is ‘**YES**’, submit as an exhibit a statement explaining the circumstances.

The application will be off-lined (held) for a basic qualification review which FCC already does for other radio license services.

The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Mobility Division stated that the fact that an applicant answers 'YES' doesn't mean they will be denied a license.

Furthermore, applicants are required to answer the question only if they are filing NCVFC Form 605 or FCC Form 605 for one of the following purposes indicated: **New**, Amendment, Modification (**Upgrade or call sign change**), or Renewal/Modification.

The question does not have to be answered if the applicant is filling a renewal only or an administrative update to their license (change of address, name, email, etc.).

FCC has indicated that all VEC's must begin transmitting this additional data to FCC starting on **September 7, 2017**.

Amateurs will see the new information displayed in the FCC license database and in their license manager record when logged in to their license account.