

TELEVISION SYSTEMS

SERVICE PROCEDURES ON LOCAL VIDEO CHANNELS

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1. GENERAL

1.01 This section describes service procedures for local video channels and is intended to provide a guide for operating personnel in establishing and maintaining local video channels.

1.02 This section is reissued to update service procedures on local video channels.

1.03 Local video channels may consist of radio relay links, cable systems, or combinations thereof.

1.04 Service impairment and interruption can be held to a minimum by careful observance of the required initial and routine tests.

1.05 It will be necessary to make arrangements with the Serving Television Operating Center (STOC), the Television Facility Test Point (TFTP), or the Customer for a release of a video channel for trouble clearing test or any other work that might affect the video service. The group granting the release should also be informed as to the expected duration of the tests and notified upon their completion.

1.06 A log record should be maintained of the releases granted, reason for and duration of release, and to whom and by whom the release is granted. This record should be maintained by the group granting the release. After completion of the work for which the release was obtained, such tests that are necessary to insure suitability for service should be made.

1.07 Spare equipment availability and location should be reviewed in advance in order to permit service restoration with minimum service outage in the event of a failure.

1.08 Where service is interrupted or seriously impaired and cannot be restored promptly, the Supervising Office should be informed of the trouble and prospects for clearance. This is especially important on television pickup loops, even though service has not yet been affected; however, it is possible that it may be delayed. (See Section 318-003-000.)

1.09 If a service has been interrupted or seriously impaired by a trouble which has not been located at the conclusion of service, an investigation to determine the cause should be initiated immediately.

2. INITIAL SERVICE TESTS

2.01 Initial tests should be completed in accordance with the procedures describing the type of facility used. It is desirable to complete the local channel installation and initial tests on the day prior to the ordered start of service.

3. PRIOR-TO-SERVICE TESTS

3.01 The testing interval, prior to start of service, should be sufficient to allow for clearance of any trouble observed. When station and testroom coverage permits, the continuity of video local channels should be checked by transmitting a video test signal or program material approximately 2 hours prior to the scheduled start of service. On local channels, such as studio to transmitter channels, this procedure should be suggested as a check to be made by the customer.

3.02 In the case of local channels connected to networks, arrangements should be made by the STOC or TFTP to perform service checks as outlined in Section 318-003-000.

4. PROGRAMS OF NATIONAL INTEREST

4.01 When a program of national interest is to be transmitted to an intercity network, special precautions should be taken to insure the quality of service. Installation and Lineup should be completed at least the day prior to service where feasible. Sufficient time should be allowed in advance for testing and preparation.

4.02 The telephone company should transmit a video test signal from the point of connection with the broadcaster at least 2 hours prior to the schedule start of service in order to permit clearance time for any trouble that might be found.

4.03 The customer should be ready to furnish a video test signal at least 2 hours prior to service time, if necessary.

4.04 Arrangements should be made for coverage of all television service pickup locations

where portable microwave equipment is used. In cases where video amplifiers are used, the decision whether or not to provide coverage will remain the option of the Operating Company providing the local channel. This decision should be based on the judgement that reflects facility and equipment reliability and the "sensitivity" of the service. The sensitivity of a service is determined by how important or newsworthy it is to the public.

4.05 Normally, Operating Company plant coverage will not be provided at receiving television service locations unless requested by and billed to the customer. The customer will provide a secure area for TELCO equipment to guard against vandalism or unauthorized access to the equipment. If a secure area is not provided for the equipment, the customer should be billed for guard service. When coverage is not requested by the customer, the final decision whether or not to provide coverage will be left to the Operating Company.