

A Message from the Board of Directors of the Colorado Connection Repeaters, Inc.

[Originally transmitted to CERN Volunteers on Jul 11, 2024]

Over the past month, we have noted an increase in unidentified transmissions over the Colorado Connection repeaters. Some transmissions are unidentified or improperly identified from legitimately licensed stations. Others are from suspected unlicensed stations. We also have investigated and determined stations that are “bootlegging” the callsign of another station. We must modify our operating practices due to the increase in illegal and improper operation.

As mandated by FCC Part 97:

PROPER IDENTIFICATION - only properly identified two-way contacts (or QSOs) are allowed on the ColCon repeaters. It is obvious to all that you must use your FCC assigned callsign. Also required is that you obtain the callsign of the other station. If they do not provide a callsign, then terminate the contact or exchange.

TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION – we must engage in legitimate two-way conversations. Before you start communicating with another ham, you should exchange both callsigns to properly establish the conversation. An example of a one-way communication is, “Station requesting a radio check, you are loud and clear. K2AD clear and monitoring.” This is NOT a proper communication and is not permitted under FCC Part 97 or ColCon policy. Always establish your contact by exchanging callsigns. This practice will also reduce multiple simultaneous responses or doubles.

ENFORCEMENT – while we are a self-policing hobby, not everyone is able to challenge alleged illegal operation. Challenges are best left to the Control Operators of the repeaters. If you suspect someone is operating illegally, just terminate the conversation, and file an interference report.

Summary –

- Always identify your station, and determine the callsign of the other person
- No callsign, then terminate
- You don’t have to respond to radio checks. That is not the fundamental purpose of CERN or ColCon.
- Pleasant conversations that encourage all users, interesting discussions, or welcome new users of our repeaters, are certainly encouraged! Be an ambassador!
- Always report suspicious activity using the interference reporting web site.

I regret that we must spend our valuable time discussing improper and illegal operation. Perhaps we can use this opportunity to enhance and evolve our on-air operation. Be assured the Board of Directors of ColCon is aggressively working this issue. We are actively collecting information on these unlicensed stations using our interference reporting web site. The FCC (in Washington DC and the Denver field office) has been contacted and are assisting. Some may try to help by filing additional complaints, but further reports to the FCC are NOT NEEDED.

73,

On behalf of the Colorado Connection Repeaters Inc. Board of Directors

Doug Sharp, K2AD

Vice President, Director and Trustee KB0VJJ