

# MURS Technical Standards

It's not as easy as just buying a radio and starting to talk.....

## MURS Radio Equipment Certification

The MURS radio service began in November 2000. In November 2002, some of the rules regarding equipment certification were changed. The results of this change greatly reduced the number of available options for MURS equipment. New equipment now had to be Part 95 certified where previously some Part 90 certified equipment was allowed to operate on MURS. Since the FCC rarely "de-certifies" equipment from a service, the older Part 90 equipment that was previously allowed to operate on MURS was allowed to continue to operate under a grandfathered status.

The results of the rule changes can be confusing. The following should help to determine whether or not your radio is allowed to operate on MURS frequencies of 181.820, 151.880,

There are currently two types of radio equipment that is allowed to be operated on MURS frequencies:

- 1) Any radio that is specifically certified for use in MURS according to Part 95 Section J, or,
- 2) Any radio that complies with **all** of the following:
  - a) currently certified for Part 90 operation and was certified prior to November 12, 2002
  - b) has a transmitter power output of 2 watts maximum
  - c) has no provision to increase power above the 2 watt maximum
  - d) complies with the bandwidth requirements of the MURS allocations:
    - i) maximum transmitter bandwidth not exceeding 20 kHz on the two 154 MHz frequencies
    - ii) maximum transmitter bandwidth not exceeding 11.25 kHz on the three 151 MHz frequencies

MURS radios type #1 is limited to newer production models certified after November 12, 2002 and must be Part 95 certified.

MURS radios type #2 includes some older commercial radios that comply with a, b, c, & d. If the radio only operates on the 154 MHz frequencies, it can comply with d (i) only. If the radio operates on both 151 and 154 MHz frequencies, the radio must comply with both d (i) and d (ii).

To determine quickly whether a radio is legal to use on MURS:  
(*Look on the radio for its FCC ID.* It is usually on the rear of the unit or under the battery. If you haven't already purchased your radio(s), check the manufacturer's specification sheet. If it is approved for Part 95, this information will normally be shown.

Is the radio Part 95 certified and operates on MURS frequencies - if YES, then its legal.

If the radio was Part 90 certified prior to November 12, 2002, and transmits no more than 2 watts, and has no external control to increase power above 2 watts, and only operates wide band on the 154 MHz frequencies, then YES, it is legal, if all parts are true.

If the radio was Part 90 certified prior to November 12, 2002, and transmits no more than 2 watts, and has no external control to increase power above 2 watts, and does narrow band on the 151 MHz and 154 MHz frequencies - or – narrow band on 151 MHz and wide band on 154 MHz frequencies, then YES, it is legal, if all parts are true.