

# ERCES Annual Maintenance & Compliance Checklist



## Preventing Breakdowns in Public Safety Radio Coverage

**As a building owner or property manager, maintaining and recertifying your Emergency Responder Communication Enhancement System (ERCES) is a critical responsibility that demands specialized expertise.**

Ensuring ongoing compliance and system reliability involves a thorough, detailed process carried out by professionals with a deep understanding of ERCES technology, fire code requirements, and public safety communications. This checklist provides a detailed, step-by-step guide to the process, empowering you to partner with knowledgeable professionals who will keep your system ready for any emergency.

### Annual ERCES Audit & Recertification Steps

#### 1 Pre-Test Inspection & Documentation Review

- Review previous year's testing documentation and reports.
- Verify system logs and monitoring reports for any recorded faults or alerts.
- Confirm as-built drawings and floor plans are current.
- Check for any unapproved system modifications or architectural changes that could impact RF coverage.
- Review Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) approval records.

#### 2 RF Grid Testing & Signal Verification

- Perform comprehensive downlink and uplink signal strength tests using Class A/B RF test equipment.
- Conduct grid testing across 95% of general areas to ensure signal strength meets or exceeds the -95 dBm threshold.
- Perform targeted testing in 99% of critical areas (stairwells, elevator shafts, fire pump rooms, exit routes) to confirm compliance.
- Measure Delivered Audio Quality (DAQ) to ensure it meets the required 3.0 standard for intelligible voice communication.

#### 3 Backup Power System Inspection

- Conduct a load test on the battery backup system to verify it can sustain the ERCES for the code-required duration (typically 12-24 hours).
- Inspect battery age, condition, and expiration dates.
- Verify all power pathways, connections, and fusing are secure and free of corrosion.
- Confirm battery and power supply enclosures meet NEMA 4/4X standards for protection.



## 4 System Health & Component Check

- Inspect the Bi-Directional Amplifier (BDA) to confirm gain settings are consistent with original commissioning.
- Verify the integrity of the donor antenna, cabling, and all internal DAS antenna components.
- Test all supervisory alarm signals connected to the fire alarm control panel for proper functionality.
- Validate the connection and reporting of any remote monitoring interfaces.

## 5 Documentation & AHJ Coordination

- Compile a comprehensive report with all findings, including annotated grid maps showing pass/fail zones.
- Log all equipment status reports, DAQ scores, and signal strength measurements.
- Document all maintenance performed and any components that were repaired or replaced.
- Prepare and submit the final compliance report to the local fire marshal or AHJ for recertification.



## Ensure Compliance and Readiness

Staying compliant with ERCES mandates protects lives and shields your organization from fines, liability, and potential suspension of your Certificate of Occupancy. A fully tested and certified system provides assurance to first responders, tenants, and stakeholders that your facility is prepared for an emergency.

### Partner with MCA for Unwavering Reliability

MCA helps our partners solve their most important communication and security challenges with turnkey, integrated solutions. Our certified teams manage the complexities of ERCES maintenance, testing, and compliance, allowing you to focus on the overall safety of your facility.

**Contact MCA today to schedule your annual ERCES audit and ensure your public safety communication system is compliant, reliable, and ready.**

## About MCA

MCA is one of America's most trusted technology integrators, delivering world-class voice, data, and security solutions that enhance safety, efficiency, and productivity. With over 65,000 customers nationwide, we act as your trusted advisor, streamlining the research, installation, and maintenance of the right solutions for your operations. Backed by a nationwide team of certified professionals, MCA offers a service-first approach and comprehensive support for every stage of your technology life-cycle.

### Contact Us

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