



Do You Know?

17 January 2019

1. Do you know that effective 1 March 2019, assisting applicants to acquire an FRN at an exam session will become more complicated?
2. Under the old process (Prior to 1 March 2019), a team with access to the Internet at their exam session location could set up a computer and an applicant could apply for an FRN. This process takes about 3 minutes.
 - Go to the FCC CORES website
 - Click on Register
 - Answer two questions
 - Complete the application form
 - Click submit
 - Receive an FRN
3. The new process, which has been in effect since 1 September 2016, is a little more complicated and could take a little longer.
 - Go to the FCC CORES website
 - Click on Register and register a username and CORES password
 - The applicant is **required** to have an e-mail address and the applicant **must be able to access** their e-mail address and **must confirm their e-mail address** by accessing their e-mail and clicking on a verification e-mail from the FCC.
 - **Until the applicant verifies their e-mail address**, they cannot proceed further.
 - Once the applicant verifies their e-mail address, they can log into CORES and apply for an FRN.
4. The FCC has also indicated that in the future (To be determined) they will no longer process applications for a new amateur radio license that contain Social Security Numbers.
5. Applicants and the VE team have several options to consider on and after 1 March 2019.
 - a. The applicant's options at this time:
 - (1) Provide their SSN on the application if the team accepts SSNs and until the FCC no longer accepts applications with SSNs.
 - (2) Apply for an FRN on-line or complete and mail FCC Form 160, CORES Registration Form to the FCC.
 - (3) Once the FCC no longer accepts SSNs on applications for an amateur radio license their options change.
 - Apply for an FRN before the exam session.
 - Apply for an FRN at the exam session if the team offers that service and does not accept SSNs.
 - b. The VE team's options at this time.
 - (1) Accept SSNs on applications for a new amateur radio license until the FCC no longer accepts applications with SSNs.

(2) Require applicants to provide an FRN in lieu of an SSN.

(3) Require applicants to provide FRNs in lieu of an SSN and offer applicants without an FRN the ability to apply for an FRN at the exam session location.

6. There are some **requirements** for assisting applicants to acquire an FRN at the exam session location.

a. The VE team and the applicants **must have** connectivity to the Internet.

- WiFi or Hotspot
- Cell service

b. Applicants **must have** a valid e-mail address

c. Applicants **must be able to access their e-mail** as part of the registration process.

7. There are two scenarios that will be available to VE teams and applicants on 1 March 2019.

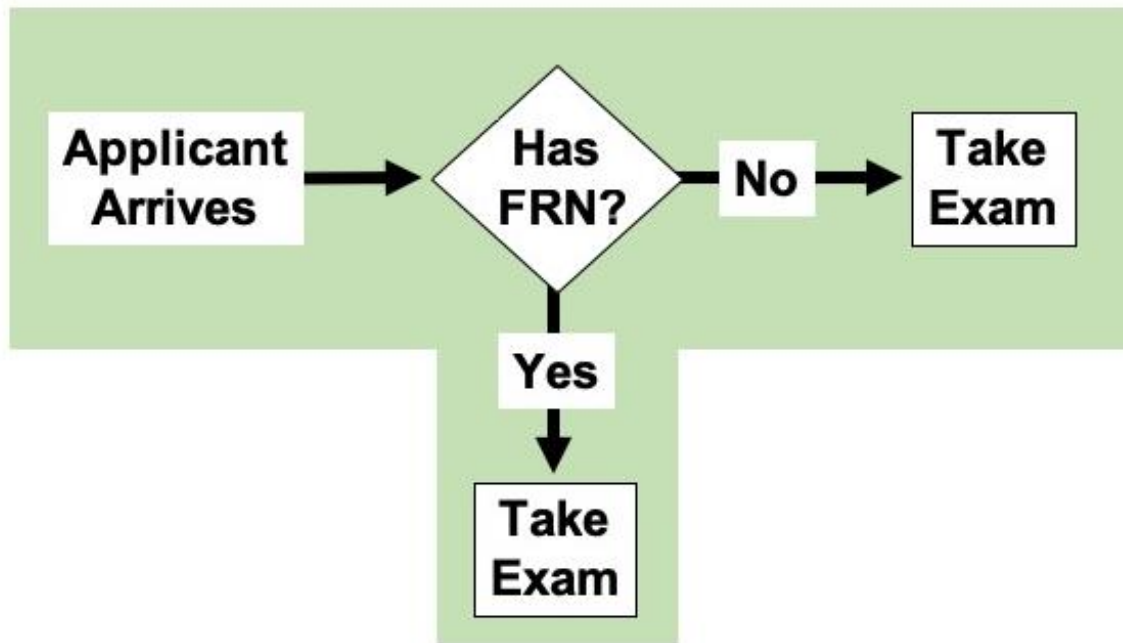
a. Scenario 1 premise: The VE teams and the VEC do not require FRNs. While the FCC requires an FRN, "auto registration" is still available which enables VECs to upload applications for a new amateur radio license that contain Social Security Numbers in lieu of the required FRN.

The image on the following page shows the flow.

- ULS was implemented on 16 August 1999
- Registration in ULS was required for licensees who desired to use the ULS features.
- Registration in ULS generated a License Identification Number (LIN) that could be used by a licensee in lieu of their SSN on future applications.
- Persons desiring to apply for an amateur radio license could not pre-register in ULS because a call sign was required to register.
- The FCC enabled the Auto registration feature to allow VECs to upload applications for a new amateur radio license that contains a Social Security Number to auto register successful applicants for a new amateur license in the ULS and receive a LIN.
- CORES was implemented on 19 July 2000. FCC Registration Numbers (FRN) replaced the LIN.

Scenario:

- **VE team does not require FRN**
- **VEC does not require FRN**
- **FCC accepts SSNs and “auto registration” is still available**



Scenario 1

b. Scenario 2 premise: One of three conditions exist.

- **The VE team** requires an FRN
- **The VEC** requires an FRN
- **The FCC** requires an FRN – Auto registration is disabled

In this scenario, a team may or may not offer applicants the ability to register in CORES and apply for an FRN at their exam session location. The decision to provide such a service is up to each VE team.

If an FRN is required under any of the three conditions listed in Scenario #2, VE Teams have two options:

- Option 1 – Provide the capability for applicants to register in CORES and apply for an FRN at the exam session location.
- Option 2 – Do not provide the capability at the exam session location for applicants to register in CORES and apply for an FRN thereby requiring each applicant to acquire their FRN at home, at the library, etc.

The decision to provide the ability for an applicant to apply for an FRN at the exam session location is made by each VE team based on local factors. As a result, the VEC will not require teams to provide such service.

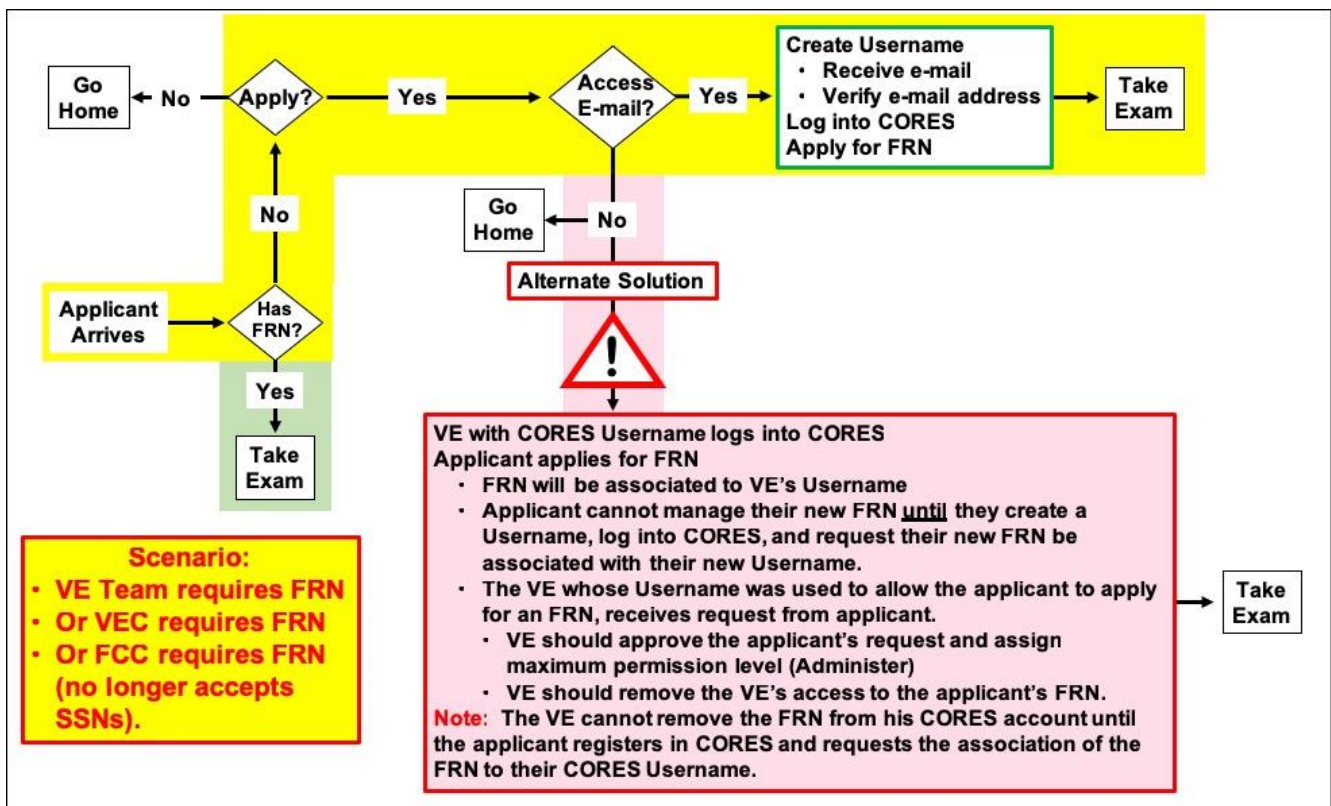
If applicant who applies for an FRN at an exam session location cannot access their e-mail, they cannot complete the registration process and cannot log into CORES to apply for an FRN. The “Alternate Solution” shown in the Scenario 2 image below, is not a desirable solution, but it is a viable solution for the applicant who cannot access their e-mail and teams should carefully consider the pros and cons before using it.

Each applicant must have an FRN prior to taking an exam according to Title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1 and Part 97,

§1.8003: The FRN must be provided with any filings requiring the payment of statutory charges under subpart G of this part, **anyone applying for a license (whether or not a fee is required)**, including someone who is exempt from paying statutory charges under subpart G of this part, anyone participating in a spectrum auction, making up-front payments or deposits in a spectrum auction, anyone making a payment on an auction loan, anyone making a contribution to the Universal Service Fund, any applicant or service provider participating in the Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Program, and anyone paying a forfeiture or other payment.

Note: There is no exclusion for persons applying for an amateur radio license.

§97.17 (b) (1): **Each candidate for an amateur radio operator license** which requires the applicant to pass one or more examination elements **must present the administering VEs with all information required by the rules prior to the examination.**



Scenario 2

9. **Now you know.**