
Proper Use of RJ31

“Safety of Life and Safety of Property”

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FCC Rules Recognized Special Needs of Alarm Equipment

- Subpart F has contained special jacks for alarm services since the beginning of Part 68's standard means of connection, *i.e.*, RJ31X and RJ38X
 - §68.502(b) Series configurations - (1) Series T/R ahead of all station equipment; 8-position series jack (USOC RJ31X)
 - §68.502(b) Series configurations - (3) Series single-line tip and ring ahead of all station equipment; 8-position series jack equipped with continuity circuit (USOC RJ38X)

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Typical means of operation

- Alarm equipment is triggered by stimuli, *e.g.*, panic button, fire detector, entry alarm, etc.
- Alarm equipment operates to terminate any existing use of line, receives dial tone, sends alarm message
- Jack wired in series, ahead of ALL other terminal equipment

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For proper operation, many involved parties

- Terminal Equipment manufacturer must design equipment to work with RJ31X or RJ38X
- Alarm Equipment must not malfunction
- Customer Instructions must specify need for appropriate jack for equipment if alarm equipment is designed to preempt line

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For proper operation, many involved parties

- Terminal Equipment manufacturer instructions must be read and understood by customer (*e.g.*, elderly, disabled, or owner of protected property)
 - Often for Safety of Life applications, may not be actual customer but agent for customer like social worker or distributor of Alarm Equipment

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For proper operation, many involved parties

- Terminal Equipment manufacturer instructions for specific jack to be used must be conveyed to provider of inside wiring
 - This could be telephone company, electrician, distributor of alarm equipment, customer themselves, or family member
 - Correct jack must be ordered,
 - Telco default under Part 68 is RJ11

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For proper operation, many involved parties

- RJ31X or RJ38X must actually be wired correctly, “ahead of and in series with” all other terminal equipment
 - numerous reports of incorrectly wired jacks
- If jack not installed correctly, Alarm Equipment will not function as intended
- Customer “assumes” they are protected, but may not be, liability issues if loss of life or property damage.

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ACTA now has Subpart F and Customer Instructions responsibility

- Consumer complaints/concerns over properly installed jacks to FCC, referred to ACTA and ACTA sponsors by FCC
- Sponsors agree to table at first ACTA meeting
- Many points of possible failure for correct operation of alarm function:
 - manufacturer instructions, customers, wiring installers

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Additional Consumer Input

- Problem statement received from Mr. Rudolph to ACTA sponsors
- He is prepared to also seek regulatory or legislative relief if ACTA is unwilling or unable to solve problem
- Questions??

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