

General Order no. 40 was an order issued in 1928 by the Federal Radio Commission which reallocated the commercial broadcast radio spectrum. It changed the frequencies of most U.S. radio stations. The frequency changes went into effect at 3:00 a.m. Eastern time on November 11, 1928.

Broadcast stations had been required since 1927 to use transmitters with crystal frequency control (General Order no. 7), and the big frequency shift created a huge demand for new crystals. Because all crystals needed to be calibrated and certified by the U.S. Bureau of Standards, the bulk of the work fell on that agency. This photo shows Bureau engineers checking new broadcaster crystals against their laboratory frequency standard (November 26, 1928).

