

Federal Communications Commission

§ 20.9

fixed operations, but excluding fixed services such as call box operations and meter reading;

(c) Mobile satellite services (part 25 of this chapter) including dual-use equipment, terminals capable of transmitting while a platform is moving, but excluding satellite facilities provided through a transportable platform that cannot move when the communications service is offered;

(d) Marine and aviation services (parts 80 and 87 of this chapter), including fixed operations that support these marine and aviation mobile systems;

(e) Personal radio services (part 95 of this chapter), but excluding 218–219 MHz Service;

(f) Personal communications services (part 24 of this chapter);

(g) Auxiliary services provided by mobile service licensees, and ancillary fixed communications offered by personal communications service providers;

(h) Unlicensed services meeting the definition of commercial mobile radio service in § 20.3, such as the resale of commercial mobile radio services, but excluding unlicensed radio frequency devices under part 15 of this chapter (including unlicensed personal communications service devices).

[59 FR 18495, Apr. 19, 1994, as amended at 63 FR 54077, Oct. 8, 1998]

§ 20.9 Commercial mobile radio service.

(a) The following mobile services shall be treated as common carriage services and regulated as commercial mobile radio services (including any such service offered as a hybrid service or offered on an excess capacity basis to the extent it meets the definition of commercial mobile radio service, or offered as an auxiliary or ancillary service), pursuant to Section 332 of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. 332:

(1) Private Paging (part 90 of this chapter), excluding not-for-profit paging systems that serve only the licensee's own internal communications needs;

(2) Stations that offer Industrial/Business Pool (§ 90.35 of this chapter) eligibles for-profit, interconnected service;

(3) Land Mobile Systems on 220–222 MHz (part 90 of this chapter), except services that are not-for-profit or do not offer interconnected service;

(4) Specialized Mobile Radio services that provide interconnected service (part 90 of this chapter);

(5) Public Coast Stations (part 80, subpart J of this chapter);

(6) Paging and Radiotelephone Service (part 22, subpart E of this chapter).

(7) Cellular Radiotelephone Service (part 22, subpart H of this chapter).

(8) Air-Ground Radiotelephone Service (part 22, subpart G of this chapter).

(9) Offshore Radiotelephone Service (part 22, subpart I of this chapter).

(10) Any mobile satellite service involving the provision of commercial mobile radio service (by licensees or resellers) directly to end users, except that mobile satellite licensees and other entities that sell or lease space segment capacity, to the extent that it does not provide commercial mobile radio service directly to end users, may provide space segment capacity to commercial mobile radio service providers on a non-common carrier basis, if so authorized by the Commission;

(11) Personal Communications Services (part 24 of this chapter), except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section;

(12) Mobile operations in the 218–219 MHz Service (part 95, subpart F of this chapter) that provide for-profit interconnected service to the public;

(13) For-profit subsidiary communications services transmitted on subcarriers within the FM baseband signal, that provide interconnected service (47 CFR 73.295 of this chapter); and

(14) A mobile service that is the functional equivalent of a commercial mobile radio service.

(i) A mobile service that does not meet the definition of commercial mobile radio service is presumed to be a private mobile radio service.

(ii) Any interested party may seek to overcome the presumption that a particular mobile radio service is a private mobile radio service by filing a petition for declaratory ruling challenging a mobile service provider's regulatory treatment as a private mobile radio service.

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(A) The petition must show that: (1) The mobile service in question meets the definition of commercial mobile radio service; or

(2) The mobile service in question is the functional equivalent of a service that meets the definition of a commercial mobile radio service.

(B) A variety of factors will be evaluated to make a determination whether the mobile service in question is the functional equivalent of a commercial mobile radio service, including: consumer demand for the service to determine whether the service is closely substitutable for a commercial mobile radio service; whether changes in price for the service under examination, or for the comparable commercial mobile radio service would prompt customers to change from one service to the other; and market research information identifying the targeted market for the service under review.

(C) The petition must contain specific allegations of fact supported by affidavit(s) of person(s) with personal knowledge. The petition must be served on the mobile service provider against whom it is filed and contain a certificate of service to this effect. The mobile service provider may file an opposition to the petition and the petitioner may file a reply. The general rules of practice and procedure contained in §§1.1 through 1.52 of this chapter shall apply.

(b) Licensees of a Personal Communications Service or applicants for a Personal Communications Service license, and VHF Public Coast Station geographic area licensees or applicants, and Automated Maritime Telecommunications System (AMTS) licensees or applicants, proposing to use any Personal Communications Service, VHF Public Coast Station, or AMTS spectrum to offer service on a private mobile radio service basis must overcome the presumption that Personal Communications Service, VHF Public Coast, and AMTS Stations are commercial mobile radio services.

(1) The applicant or licensee (who must file an application to modify its authorization) seeking authority to dedicate a portion of the spectrum for private mobile radio service, must include a certification that it will offer

Personal Communications Service, VHF Public Coast Station, or AMTS service on a private mobile radio service basis. The certification must include a description of the proposed service sufficient to demonstrate that it is not within the definition of commercial mobile radio service in §20.3. Any application requesting to use any Personal Communications Service, VHF Public Coast Station, or AMTS spectrum to offer service on a private mobile radio service basis will be placed on public notice by the Commission.

(2) Any interested party may file a petition to deny the application within 30 days after the date of public notice announcing the acceptance for filing of the application. The petition shall contain specific allegations of fact supported by affidavit(s) of person(s) with personal knowledge to show that the applicant's request does not rebut the commercial mobile radio service presumption. The petition must be served on the applicant and contain a certificate of service to this effect. The applicant may file an opposition with allegations of fact supported by affidavit. The petitioner may file a reply. No additional pleadings will be allowed. The general rules of practice and procedure contained in §§1.1 through 1.52 of this chapter and §22.30 of this chapter shall apply.

(c) Any provider of private land mobile service before August 10, 1993 (including any system expansions, modifications, or acquisitions of additional licenses in the same service, even if authorized after this date), and any private paging service utilizing frequencies allocated as of January 1, 1993, that meet the definition of commercial mobile radio service, shall, except for purposes of §20.5 (applicable August 10, 1993 for the providers listed in this paragraph), be treated as private mobile radio service until August 10, 1996. After this date, these entities will be treated as commercial mobile radio service providers regulated under this part.

[59 FR 18495, Apr. 19, 1994, as amended at 62 FR 18843, Apr. 17, 1997; 63 FR 40062, July 27, 1998; 64 FR 26887, May 18, 1999; 64 FR 59659, Nov. 3, 1999; 66 FR 10968, Feb. 21, 2001; 72 FR 31194, June 6, 2007]