

Regulations

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Coast Guard proposes to amend 33 CFR part 117 as follows:

PART 117—DRAWBRIDGE OPERATION REGULATIONS

1. The authority citation for part 117 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 499; 49 CFR 1.46; 33 CFR 1.05–1(g); section 117.255 also issued under the authority of Pub. Law 102–587, 106 Stat. 5039.

2. Section 117.209(b) is revised to read as follows:

§ 117.209 Mianus River.

* * * * *

(b) The draw shall open on signal from April 1 through October 31, from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., after at least a four-hour advance notice is given and from November 1 through March 30, from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., after at least a twenty-four-hour advance notice is given by calling the number posted at the bridge.

Dated: December 6, 2000.

G.N. Naccara,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, First Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 01–435 Filed 1–5–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–15–U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

46 CFR Parts 110 and 111

[USCG–2001–8602]

Marine Shipboard Electrical Cable Standards: Incorporation of IEEE Standard 45, 1998 Edition

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is considering requests to allow merchant vessels to use shipboard cable constructed to meet the requirements in Clause 8 (Cable Construction), Clause 9 (Cable Application), and Clause 10 (Cable Installation) of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Standard 45, Recommended Practice for Electrical Installations on Shipboard-1998 edition. The 1998 edition changes the testing requirements for marine shipboard electrical cable from those in the 1983 edition. It also requires third party verification. The Coast Guard requests comments concerning which edition (the 1983 edition, the 1998 edition, or both) should be incorporated by reference.

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Docket Management Facility on or before March 9, 2001.

ADDRESSES: To make sure your comments and related material are not entered more than once in the docket, please submit them by only one of the following means:

(1) By mail to the Docket Management Facility [USCG–2001–8602], U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL–401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001.

(2) By delivery to room PL–401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202–366–9329.

(3) By fax to the Docket Management Facility at 202–493–2251.

(4) Electronically through the Web Site for the Docket Management System at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for this notice. Comments and material received from the public will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room PL–401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also find this docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions on this notice, call Dolores Mercier, Project Manager, Office of Design and Engineering Standards (G–MSE), Coast Guard, telephone 202–267–0658, fax 202–267–4816, e-mail dmercier@comdt.uscg.mil. For questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Dorothy Beard, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, phone 202–366–9329.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Comments

If you submit written comments, please include your name and address, and identify the docket number for this rulemaking [USCG–2001–8602] and the reason for each comment. You may submit your comments and material by mail, delivery, fax, or electronic means to the Docket Management Facility at the address under **ADDRESSES**; but please submit your comments and material by only one means. Please submit all comments and material in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing to the Facility at the address under **ADDRESSES**. If you want acknowledgement of receipt of your

comments, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. The Coast Guard will consider all comments and materials received during the comment period.

Background and Purpose

On February 8, 2000, a notice of proposed rulemaking was published in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 6111). In this rulemaking the Coast Guard proposed to amend its electrical engineering regulations for merchant vessels by adding alternative cable standards that were equivalent to the existing standards. IEEE Std 45, 1998 edition was not included in that rulemaking as an alternative standard. In the comment process of that notice we received numerous requests from industry to recognize marine shipboard electrical cable that is constructed to IEEE Std. 45–1998 edition. We presently recognize cable constructed to the IEEE Std. 45–1983 edition. The 1998 edition of IEEE Std. 45 changes the testing requirements for marine shipboard electrical cable, and it also requires third party verification. We recognize that there are types of cable found in IEEE Std. 45–1998, that are not found in IEEE Std. 45–1983.

The Coast Guard seeks comments regarding the following three proposals:

1. The Coast Guard should not recognize IEEE Std. 45–1998 edition.
2. The Coast Guard should recognize IEEE Std. 45–1998 edition and should remove the reference to the 1983 edition.
3. The Coast Guard should recognize IEEE Std. 45–1998 edition and should leave the reference to the 1983 edition.

The Coast Guard encourages the public to submit comments on the above three proposals.

Dated: December 27, 2000.

Joseph J. Angelo,

Director of Standards.

[FR Doc. 01–434 Filed 1–5–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–15–U

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Parts 23 and 25

[IB Docket No. 00–248, FCC 00–435]

2000 Biennial Regulatory Review

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Commission initiates a review of the procedures governing the processing of

non-routine earth station license applications. The Commission also proposes simplifying the application form for routine earth station licenses. The Commission's objectives are to expedite the review of earth station application, so that earth station operators can provide their services sooner.

DATES: Comments are due on or before March 26, 2001. Reply comments are due on or before April 23, 2001.

Written comments by the public on the proposed information collections are due March 26, 2001. Written comments must be submitted by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on the proposed information collection(s) on or before April 23, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 Fed. Reg. 24,121 (1998). Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, however, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address>." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply.

Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appear in the caption of this proceeding, commenters must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number. All filings must be sent to the Commission's Secretary, Magalie Roman Salas, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, The Portals, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554.

In addition to filing comments with the Secretary, a copy of any comments on the information collections contained herein should be submitted to Judy Boley, Federal Communications Commission, Room 1-C804, 445 12th

Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554, or via the Internet to jboley@fcc.gov, and to Edward C. Springer, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10236 NEOB, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503 or via the Internet to edward.springer@omb.eop.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steven Spaeth, Satellite and Radiocommunication Division, International Bureau, (202) 418-1539. For additional information concerning the information collection(s) contained in this document, contact Judy Boley at 202-418-0214, or via the Internet at jboley@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking adopted December 11, 2000. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Public Reference Room, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Suite 140, 2100 M Street, NW., Washington, DC 20037.

This NPRM contains proposed information collection(s) subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). It has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review under the PRA. OMB, the general public, and other Federal agencies are invited to comment on the proposed information collections contained in this proceeding.

Summary of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

The Commission has found several cases in which modifying or eliminating rules could facilitate licensing of earth stations, thereby expediting the provision of useful satellite services to the public, without unreasonably increasing the risk of harmful interference to existing earth station or space station operators, or terrestrial wireless operators in shared frequency bands. In particular, we seek comment on the following rule revisions:

- (1) Codifying streamlined procedures for case-by-case examination of earth stations using "non-routine" antennas, non-routine power levels, or both;
- (2) Relaxing some current requirements, such as increasing power and power density limits, and allowing some temporary fixed earth stations to begin operation sooner than is now permitted;
- (3) Streamlining the very small aperture terminal (VSAT) rules; and

revising the Commission's power level rules to provide for various types of VSAT multiple access methods;

(4) Adopting a simplified license application form for "routine" earth stations; and

(5) Other miscellaneous rule revisions.

In addition, the Commission invites parties to propose revisions to part 23 of its rules, governing International Fixed Public Radiocommunication Services.

Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

As required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA),¹ the Commission has prepared this Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA) of the possible significant economic impact on small entities by the policies and rules proposed in this notice of proposed rulemaking. We request written public comments on this IRFA. Commenters must identify their comments as responses to the IRFA and must file the comments by the deadlines for comments on the notice of proposed rulemaking provided above. The Commission will send a copy of the notice of proposed rulemaking, including this IRFA, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration. See 5 U.S.C. 603(a). In addition, the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and IRFA (or summaries thereof) will be published in the **Federal Register**.

A. Need for, and Objectives of, the Proposed Rules

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires the Commission in every even-numbered year beginning in 1998 to review all regulations that apply to the operations or activities of any provider of telecommunications service and to determine whether any such regulation is no longer necessary in the public interest due to meaningful economic competition.

Our objective is to repeal or modify any rules in Part 25 that are no longer necessary in the public interest, as required by Section 11 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

B. Legal Basis

The proposed action is supported by Section 11 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 161.

¹ See 5 U.S.C. 603. The RFA, see, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, has been amended by the Contract With America Advancement Act of 1996, Public Law 104-121, 110 Stat. 847 (1996) (CWAAA). Title II of the CWAAA is the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA).

C. Description and Estimate of the Number of Small Entities to Which the Proposed Rules May Apply

The RFA directs agencies to provide a description of, and, where feasible, an estimate of, the number of small entities that may be affected by the proposed rules, if adopted.² The RFA generally defines the term "small entity" as having the same meaning as the terms "small business," "small organization," and "small governmental jurisdiction."³ In addition, the term "small business" has the same meaning as the term "small business concern" under the Small Business Act.⁴ A small business concern is one which:

- (1) Is independently owned and operated;
- (2) Is not dominant in its field of operation; and
- (3) Satisfies any additional criteria established by the Small Business Administration (SBA).⁵ A small organization is generally "any not-for-profit enterprise which is independently owned and operated and is not dominant in its field."⁶ Nationwide, as of 1992, there were approximately 275,801 small organizations.⁷ "Small governmental jurisdiction" generally means "governments of cities, counties, towns, townships, villages, school districts, or special districts, with a population of less than 50,000."⁸ As of 1992, there were approximately 85,006 such jurisdictions in the United States.⁹ This number includes 38,978 counties, cities, and towns; of these, 37,566, or 96 percent, have populations of fewer than 50,000.¹⁰ The Census Bureau estimates that this ratio is approximately accurate for all governmental entities. Thus, of the 85,006 governmental entities, we estimate that 81,600 (91 percent) are small entities. Below, we further describe and estimate the number of small entity licensees that may be

affected by the proposed rules, if adopted.

1. Cable Services

The SBA has developed a definition of small entities for cable and other pay television services, which includes all such companies generating \$11 million or less in revenue annually. This definition includes cable systems operators, closed circuit television services, direct broadcast-satellite services, multipoint distribution systems, satellite master antenna systems and subscription television services. According to the Census Bureau data from 1992, there were 1,788 total cable and other pay television services and 1,423 had less than \$11 million in revenue. The Commission has developed its own definition of a small cable system operator for the purposes of rate regulation. Under the Commission's rules, a "small cable company," is one serving fewer than 400,000 subscribers nationwide.¹¹ Based on our most recent information, we estimate that there were 1,439 cable operators that qualified as small cable system operators at the end of 1995.¹² Since then, some of those companies may have grown to serve over 400,000 subscribers, and others may have been involved in transactions that caused them to be combined with other cable operators. Consequently, we estimate that there are fewer than 1,439 small entity cable system operators.

The Communications Act also contains a definition of a small cable system operator, which is "a cable operator that, directly or through an affiliate, serves in the aggregate fewer than 1 percent of all subscribers in the United States and is not affiliated with any entity or entities whose gross annual revenues in the aggregate exceed \$250,000,000."¹³ The Commission has determined that there are 66,690,000 subscribers in the United States. Therefore, we found that an operator serving fewer than 666,900 subscribers shall be deemed a small operator, if its annual revenues, when combined with the total annual revenues of all of its affiliates, do not exceed \$250 million in the aggregate.¹⁴ Based on available data, we find that the number of cable

operators serving 666,900 subscribers or less totals 1,450.¹⁵ We do not request nor do we collect information concerning whether cable system operators are affiliated with entities whose gross annual revenues exceed \$250,000,000, and thus are unable at this time to estimate with greater precision the number of cable system operators that would qualify as small cable operators under the definition in the Communications Act.

2. International Services

The Commission has not developed a definition of small entities applicable to licensees in the international services. Therefore, the applicable definition of small entity is generally the definition under the SBA rules applicable to Communications Services, Not Elsewhere Classified (NEC).¹⁶ This definition provides that a small entity is expressed as one with \$11.0 million or less in annual receipts.¹⁷ According to the Census Bureau, there were a total of 848 communications services providers, NEC, in operation in 1992, and a total of 775 had annual receipts of less than \$9.999 million.¹⁸ The Census report does not provide more precise data.

a. Fixed Satellite Transmit/Receive Earth Stations. Currently there are over 7500 authorized fixed satellite transmit/receive earth stations authorized for use in bands shared with the terrestrial fixed service. We do not request or collect annual revenue information, and thus are unable to estimate the number of the earth stations that would constitute a small business under the SBA definition.

b. Mobile Satellite Earth Station Feeder Links. There are two licensees operating in spectrum shared with terrestrial fixed services. We do not request or collect annual revenue information, and thus are unable to estimate of the number of mobile satellite earth stations that would constitute a small business under the SBA definition.

c. Space Stations (Geostationary). Commission records reveal that there are six space station licensees licensed in spectrum shared on a co-primary basis with the terrestrial fixed service in the C- and Ku-bands. We do not request or collect annual revenue information,

² 5 U.S.C. 603(b)(3).

³ Id. 601(6).

⁴ 5 U.S.C. 601(3) (incorporating by reference the definition of "small business concern" in 15 U.S.C. 632). Pursuant to the RFA, the statutory definition of a small business applies "unless an agency, after consultation with the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration and after opportunity for public comment, establishes one or more definitions of such term which are appropriate to the activities of the agency and publishes such definition(s) in the **Federal Register**." 5 U.S.C. 601(3).

⁵ Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 632 (1996).

⁶ 5 U.S.C. 601(4).

⁷ 1992 Economic Census, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Table 6 (special tabulation of data under contract to Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration).

⁸ 5 U.S.C. 601(5).

⁹ U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "1992 Census of Governments."

¹⁰ Id.

¹¹ 47 CFR 76.901(e). The Commission developed this definition based on its determination that a small cable system operator is one with annual revenues of \$100 million or less. *Implementation of Sections of the 1992 Cable Act: Rate Regulation, Sixth Report and Order and Eleventh Order on Reconsideration*. 10 FCC Rcd 7393 (1995), 60 FR 10534 (Feb. 27, 1995).

¹² Paul Kagan Associates, Inc., *Cable TV Investor*, Feb. 29, 1996 (based on figures for Dec. 30, 1995).

¹³ 47 U.S.C. 543(m)(2).

¹⁴ 47 CFR 76.1403(b).

¹⁵ Paul Kagan Associates, Inc., *Cable TV Investor*, Feb. 29, 1996 (based on figures for Dec. 30, 1995).

¹⁶ An exception is the Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) Service, *infra*.

¹⁷ 13 CFR 120.121, SIC code 4899.

¹⁸ 1992 Economic Census Industry and Enterprise Receipts Size Report, Table 2D, SIC code 4899 (U.S. Bureau of the Census data under contract to the Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration).

and thus are unable to estimate of the number of geostationary space stations that would constitute a small business under the SBA definition.

d. Space Stations (Non-Geostationary). There are four Non-Geostationary Space Station licensees licensed in spectrum shared on a co-primary basis with the terrestrial fixed service in the C- and Ku-bands. We do not request or collect annual revenue information, and thus are unable to estimate of the number of non-geostationary space stations that would constitute a small business under the SBA definition.

3. Auxiliary, Special Broadcast and Other Program Distribution Services

This service involves a variety of transmitters, generally used to relay broadcast programming to the public (through translator and booster stations) or within the program distribution chain (from a remote news gathering unit back to the station). The Commission has not developed a definition of small entities applicable to broadcast auxiliary licensees. Therefore, the applicable definition of small entity is the definition under the Small Business Administration (SBA) rules applicable to radio broadcasting stations (SIC 4832) and television broadcasting stations (SIC 4833). These definitions provide that a small entity is one with either \$5.0 million or less in annual receipts for a radio broadcasting station or \$10.5 million in annual receipts for a TV station. 13 C.F.R. 121.201, SIC CODES 4832 and 4833. There are currently 3,237 FM translators and boosters, 4913 TV translators.¹⁹ The FCC does not collect financial information on any broadcast facility and the Department of Commerce does not collect financial information on these auxiliary broadcast facilities. We believe, however, that most, if not all, of these auxiliary facilities could be classified as small businesses by themselves. We also recognize that most translators and boosters are owned by a parent station which, in some cases, would be covered by the revenue definition of small business entity discussed above. These stations would likely have annual revenues that exceed the SBA maximum to be designated as a small business (as noted, either \$5 million for a radio station or \$10.5 million for a TV station). Furthermore, they do not meet the Small Business Act's definition of a "small business concern" because they

are not independently owned and operated.

4. Microwave Services

Microwave services include common carrier, private operational fixed, and broadcast auxiliary radio services. At present, there are over 13,500 common carrier stations, and approximately 18,000 private operational fixed stations and broadcast auxiliary radio stations in the microwave services in spectrum that is potentially affected by this rulemaking. Additionally, these stations represent the following distinct licensees among the various radio services: LMDS (121), DEMS (2), Common Carrier Fixed (PTP and LTTS) (1028), Private Operational Fixed PTP (1511), and Fixed Broadcast Auxiliary (806).²⁰ Inasmuch as the Commission has not yet defined a small business with respect to microwave services, we will utilize the SBA's definition applicable to radiotelephone companies—i.e., an entity with no more than 1,500 persons. 13 CFR 121.201, SIC CODE 4812. We estimate, for this purpose, that all of the Fixed Microwave licensees (excluding broadcast auxiliary licensees) would qualify as small entities under the SBA definition for radiotelephone companies.

D. Description of Projected Reporting, Recordkeeping, and Other Compliance Requirements

None of the proposed rules in this notice are expected to increase the reporting, record keeping and other compliance requirements of any telecommunications carrier.

E. Steps Taken To Minimize Significant Economic Impact on Small Entities, and Significant Alternatives Considered

The RFA requires an agency to describe any significant alternatives that it has considered in reaching its proposed approach, which may include the following four alternatives: (1) The establishment of differing compliance or reporting requirements or timetables that take into account the resources available to small entities; (2) the clarification, consolidation, or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements under the rule for small entities; (3) the use of performance, rather than design, standards; and (4) an exemption from coverage of the rule, or any part thereof, for small entities.

This Notice solicits comment on alternatives for more efficient processing of non-routine earth station

applications and simplifying earth station application forms.

F. Federal Rules That May Duplicate, Overlap, or Conflict With the Proposed Rules

None.

Paperwork Reduction Act: This NPRM contains proposed new and modified information collections. The Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, invites the general public and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to comment on the information collection(s) contained in this NPRM, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Public and agency comments are due at the same time as other comments on this NPRM; OMB notification of action is due April 23, 2001. Comments should address: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimates; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

OMB Control Number: 3060-0678.

Title: Part 25 of the Commission's Rules Governing the Licensing of, and Spectrum Usage by, Satellite Network Earth Stations and Space Stations

Form No.: FCC Form 312, FCC Form 312 EZ, FCC Form 312-R, FCC Form 312-M, FCC Form 312 Schedule S.

Type of Review: Revision of existing collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities.

Number of Respondents: 4,560.

Estimated Time Per Response: 2 hours.

Total Annual Burden: 9,120 hours.

Total Annual Costs: \$13,838,080.

Needs and Uses: The information collection requirements accounted for in this collection are necessary to determine the technical, legal and financial qualifications of applicants or licensees to operate a station, transfer or assign a license, and to determine whether the authorization is in the public interest, convenience and necessity. Without such information, the Commission could not determine whether to permit respondents to provide telecommunication services in the U.S. The Commission would therefore be unable to fulfill its statutory and responsibilities in accordance with

¹⁹ FCC News Release, *Broadcast Station Totals as of September 30, 1999*, No. 71831 (Jan. 21, 1999).

²⁰ Results of analysis by FCC ULS contractor in July 2000.

the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and the obligations imposed on parties to the WTO Basic Telecom Agreement.

Ordering Clauses

Pursuant to Sections 4(i), 7(a), 11, 303(c), 303(f), 303(g), and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 154(i), 157(a), 161, 303(c), 303(f), 303(g), 303(r), that this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is hereby *Adopted*.

The Commission's Consumer Information Bureau, Reference Information Center, *Shall Send* a copy of this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, including the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, to the Chief, Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,
Secretary.

Proposed Rule Changes

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission seeks proposals for revisions to part 23 and proposes to amend part 25 of title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 25—SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS

1. The authority citation for part 25 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 701–744. Interprets or applies Sections 4, 301, 302, 303, 307, 309, and 332 of the Communications Act, as amended, 47 U.S.C. Sections 154, 301, 302, 303, 307, 309, 332, unless otherwise noted.

2. Amend § 25.103 by revising paragraphs (b) and (c)(2) to read as follows:

§ 25.103 Definitions.

* * * * *

(b) *Authorized carrier.* The term “authorized carrier” means a communications common carrier which is authorized by the Federal Communications Commission under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to provide services by means of communications satellites.

(c) * * *

(2) The corporation shall be deemed to be a common carrier within the meaning of section 3(10) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

* * * * *

3. Amend § 25.109 by revising paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 25.109 Cross-reference.

* * * * *

(c) Ship earth stations in the Maritime Mobile Satellite Service, see 47 CFR part 80 of this chapter.

4. Amend § 25.110 by revising paragraphs (a) and (b) to read as follows:

§ 25.110 Filing of applications, fees, and number of copies.

(a) Standard application forms applicable to this part may be obtained from the Federal Communications Commission, Forms Distribution Center, by calling 1–800–418–FORM (3676).

(b) Manually filed applications for satellite radio station authorizations governed by this part and requiring a fee shall be mailed or hand-delivered to the locations specified in Part 1, subpart G of this chapter. The addresses for filing and fee amounts for the applications are also listed in the International and Satellite services fee filing guide from the Commission's Forms Distribution Center or by calling 1–800–418–FORM (3676). All other applications shall be submitted to the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554.

* * * * *

5. Amend § 25.111 by revising paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 25.111 Additional information.

* * * * *

(b) Applicants, permittees and licensees of radio stations governed by this part shall provide the Commission with all information it requires for the advance publication, coordination and notification of frequency assignments pursuant to the international radio regulations. No protection from interference caused by radio stations authorized by other Administrations is guaranteed unless coordination procedures are timely completed or, with respect to individual administrations, by successfully completing coordination agreements. Any radio station authorization for which coordination has not been completed may be subject to additional terms and conditions as required to effect coordination of the frequency assignments with other Administrations.

6. Amend § 25.113 by revising the section heading and paragraph (a), and removing and reserving paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 25.113 Station licenses and launch authority.

(a) Construction permits are not required for satellite earth stations. Construction of such stations may commence prior to grant of a license at the applicant's own risk. Applicants must comply with the provisions of 47

CFR 1.1312 relating to environmental processing prior to commencing construction.

* * * * *

7. Amend § 25.115 by revising paragraphs (a) and (c) to read as follows:

§ 25.115 Application for earth station authorizations.

(a) Transmitting earth stations. Commission authorization must be obtained for authority to operate a transmitting earth station. Applications shall be filed on FCC Form 312 and include the information specified in § 25.130.

* * * * *

(c) Large Networks of Small Antennas operating in the 12/14 GHz frequency bands with U.S.-licensed or non-U.S.-licensed satellites for domestic or international services. Applications to license small antenna network systems operating in the 12/14 GHz frequency band under blanket operating authority shall be filed on FCC Form 312 and Schedule B, for each large (5 meters or larger) hub station, and Schedule B for each representative type of small antenna (less than 5 meters) operating within the network.

* * * * *

8. Revise § 25.117 to read as follows:

§ 25.117 Modification of station license.

(a) Except as provided for in § 25.118 (Modifications not requiring prior authorization), no modification of a radio station governed by this part which affects the parameters or terms and conditions of the station authorization shall be made except upon application to and grant of such application by the Commission.

(b) [Reserved]

(c) Applications for modification of earth station authorizations shall be submitted on FCC Form 312, Main Form and Schedule B, except as set forth in paragraph (e) of this section.

(d) Applications for modifications of space station authorizations shall be filed in accordance with § 25.114, but only those items of information listed in § 25.114(c) that change need to be submitted, provided the applicant certifies that the remaining information has not changed.

(e) Any application for modification of authorization to extend a required date of completion (e.g., begin construction, complete construction, launch, bring into operation) shall be filed on FCC Form 312M (Application for Additional Time to Construct). The application must include a verified statement from the applicant:

(1) That states the additional time is required due to unforeseeable

circumstances beyond the applicant's control, describes these circumstances with specificity, and justifies the precise extension period requested; or

(2) That states there are unique and overriding public interest concerns that justify an extension, identifies these interests and justifies a precise extension period.

(f) Applications for modification of earth station authorizations shall be submitted on FCC Form 312, Main Form and Schedule B, whenever the resulting radiofrequency emissions that would be caused by the modification would cause the power density in a given area to exceed five percent of the radiofrequency exposure limits, such that an environmental assessment statement would be required under § 1.1307(b)(3)(i) of this chapter.

9. Revise § 25.118 to read as follows:

§ 25.118 Modifications not requiring prior authorization.

(a) *Notification required.* Authorized earth station operators may make the following modifications to their licenses without prior Commission authorization, provided that the operators notify the Commission, using FCC Form 312 and Schedule B, within 30 days of the modification:

(1) Licensees may make changes to their authorized earth stations without obtaining prior Commission authorization, provided that they have complied with all applicable frequency coordination procedures in accordance with § 25.251, and the modification does not involve:

(i) An increase in EIRP or EIRP density (both main lobe and side lobe);

(ii) An increase in transmitted power;

(iii) A change in coordinates of more than 1 second in latitude or longitude for stations operating in frequency bands that are shared with terrestrial systems; or

(iv) A change in coordinates of 10 seconds or greater in latitude or longitude for stations operating in frequency bands that are not shared with terrestrial systems.

(v) A change in operations from private carrier to common carrier status.

(2) Equipment in an authorized earth station may be replaced without prior authorization if the new equipment is electrically identical to the existing equipment.

(3) Authorized VSAT earth station operators may add VSAT remote terminals without prior authorization, provided that they have complied with all applicable frequency coordination procedures in accordance with § 25.251, and such modifications do not require prior authorization under § 25.121(e)(3).

(VSAT hub earth stations and all remote terminals that are not part of a U.S.-licensed VSAT network are treated like other earth stations for purposes of determining whether they can be modified without prior authorization.)

(b) *Notification not required.* An authorized earth station licensee may add, change or replace transmitters or antenna facilities without prior authorization, provided:

(1) The added, changed, or replaced facilities conform to § 25.209;

(2) The particulars of operations remain unchanged;

(3) Frequency coordination is not required; and

(4) The maximum power and power density delivered into any antenna at the earth station site shall not exceed the values calculated by subtracting the maximum antenna gain specified in the license from the maximum authorized e.i.r.p. and e.i.r.p. density values.

10. Amend § 25.121 by revising paragraphs (a), (c), and (e) to read as follows:

§ 25.121 License term and renewals.

(a) *License term.* Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, licenses for facilities governed by this part will be issued for a period of 10 years.

* * * * *

(c) *Earth stations.* For earth stations, the license term will be specified in the instrument of authorization. In no case shall this term exceed 15 years.

* * * * *

(e)(1) *Renewal of licenses.* Applications for renewals of earth station licenses must be submitted on FCC Form 312R no earlier than 90 days, and no later than 30 days, before the expiration date of the license. Applications for space station system replacement authorization for non-geostationary orbit satellites shall be filed no earlier than 90 days, and no later than 30 days, prior to the end of the seventh year of the existing license term.

(2) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (e)(1) of this section, applicants seeking renewal of a MET license must include as an attachment to FCC Form 312R a statement of the number of MET units in its network placed into operation.

(3) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (e)(1) of this section, applicants seeking renewal of a VSAT license must include as an attachment to FCC Form 312R a statement of the number of VSAT units in its network placed into operation. If a VSAT licensee does not bring all the VSAT

units specified in its license into operation by the time the licensee is renewed, subsequent modification applications to add VSAT units will require prior Commission authorization.

11. Amend § 25.130 by revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 25.130 Filing requirements for transmitting earth stations.

(a) Applications for a new or modified transmitting earth station facility shall be submitted on FCC Form 312, Main Form and Schedule B, accompanied by any required exhibits. In addition, the applicant shall submit the following information to be used as an "informative" in the public notice issued under § 25.151:

(1) A detailed description of the service to be provided, including frequency bands and satellites to be used.

(2) The diameter of the antenna.

(3) Proposed power and power density levels.

(4) Identification of any random access technique, if applicable, as listed in § 25.134(a).

(5) Identification of any rule or rules for which a waiver is requested.

12. Amend § 25.131 by revising paragraphs (a), (b), (h), (i), and (j) to read as follows:

§ 25.131 Filing requirements for receive-only earth stations.

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (j) of this section, applications for a license for a receive-only earth station shall be submitted on FCC Form 312, Main Form and Schedule B, accompanied by any required exhibits and the information described in §§ 25.130(a)(1) through 25.130(a)(5).

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (j) of this section, receive-only earth stations in the fixed-satellite service that operate with U.S.-licensed satellites may be registered with the Commission in order to protect them from interference from terrestrial microwave stations in bands shared co-equally with the fixed service in accordance with the procedures of §§ 25.203 and 25.251.

* * * * *

(h) *Registration term.* Registrations for receive-only earth stations governed by this section will be issued for a period of 15 years from the date on which the application was filed. Applications for renewals of registrations must be submitted on FCC Form 312R (Application for Renewal of Radio Station License in Specified Services) no earlier than 90 days and no later than 30 days before the expiration date of the registration.

(i) Applications for modification of license or registration of receive-only

earth stations shall be made in conformance with §§ 25.117 and 25.118. In addition, registrants are required to notify the Commission when a receive-only earth station is no longer operational or when it has not been used to provide any service during any 6-month period.

(j) Receive-only earth stations operating with non-U.S. licensed space stations shall file an FCC Form 312 requesting a license or modification to operate such station. Receive-only earth stations used to receive INTELNET I service from INTELSAT space stations need not file for licenses. See Deregulation of Receive-Only Satellite Earth Stations Operating with the INTELSAT Global Communications Satellite System, Declaratory Ruling, RM No. 4845, FCC 86-214 (released May 19, 1986) available through the International Reference Center, FCC, identified in § 0.453(m) of this chapter.

13. Amend § 25.132 by revising paragraph (a) and adding paragraph (b)(3) to read as follows:

§ 25.132 Verification of earth station antenna performance standards.

(a) All applications for transmitting earth stations must be accompanied by a certificate pursuant to § 2.902 of the chapter from the manufacturer of each antenna that the results of a series of radiation pattern tests performed on representative equipment in representative configurations by the manufacturer demonstrates that the equipment complies with the performance standards set forth in § 25.209. The licensee must be prepared to demonstrate the measurements to the Commission on request.

(b) * * *

(3) Applicants seeking authority to use an antenna that does not meet the standards set forth in §§ 25.209(a) and (b), pursuant to the procedure set forth in § 25.220, are required to submit a copy of the manufacturer's range test plots of the antenna gain patterns specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

* * * * *

14. Amend § 25.133 by revising paragraphs (a) and (b) and adding paragraph (e) to read as follows:

§ 25.133 Period of construction; certification of commencement of operation.

(a)(1) Each license for an earth station governed by this part, except for mobile satellite earth station terminals (METs), shall specify as a condition therein the period in which construction of facilities must be completed and station operation commenced. Construction of

the earth station must be completed and the station must be brought into operation within 12 months from the date of the license grant except as may be determined by the Commission for any particular application.

(2) Each license for mobile satellite earth station terminals (METs) shall specify as a condition therein the period in which station operation must be commenced. The networks in which the METs will be operated must be brought into operation within 12 months from the date of the license grant except as may be determined by the Commission for any particular application.

(b)(1) Each license for a transmitting earth station included in this part shall also specify as a condition therein that upon the completion of construction, each licensee must file with the Commission a certification containing the following information:

- (i) The name of the licensee;
- (ii) File number of the application; call sign of the antenna;
- (iii) Date of the license;
- (iv) A certification that the facility as authorized has been completed and that each antenna facility has been tested and is within 2 dB of the pattern specified in § 25.209, § 25.135 (NVNG MSS earth stations), or § 25.213 (1.6/2.4 GHz Mobile-Satellite Service earth stations). MET licenses shall specify as a condition that the licensee must file a certification that it has begun to provide service;
- (v) The date on which the station became operational; and
- (vi) A statement that the station will remain operational during the license period unless the license is submitted for cancellation.

(2) For stations authorized under § 25.115(c) (Large Networks of Small Antennas operating in the 12/14 GHz bands) and § 25.115(d) (User Transceivers in the Mobile-Satellite Service), and for mobile satellite earth station terminals (METs), a certificate must be filed when the network is put into operation.

* * * * *

(e) An application for MET authorization shall be filed on FCC Form 312, Main Form and Schedule B. A MET licensee applying to renew its license must follow the procedures provided in § 25.121(e)(2).

15. Amend § 25.134 by revising paragraphs (a), (b), and (d) to read as follows:

§ 25.134 Licensing provisions of very small aperture terminal (VSAT) networks.

(a) All applications for VSAT service in the 12/14 GHz band that meet the

following requirements will be routinely processed:

(1) The maximum transmitter power spectral density of a digital modulated carrier into any GSO FSS earth station antenna shall not exceed—14.0— $10\log(N)$ dB(W/4 kHz).

(i) For a VSAT network using frequency division multiple access (FDMA) or time division multiple access (TDMA) technique, N is equal to one.

(ii) For a VSAT network using code division multiple access (CDMA) technique, N is the likely maximum number of co-frequency simultaneously transmitting earth stations in the same satellite receiving beam.

(iii) For a VSAT network using contention Aloha multiple access technique, N is equal to two.

(iv) For a VSAT network using contention CDMA/Aloha multiple access technique, N is twice the likely maximum number of co-frequency simultaneously transmitting earth stations in the same satellite-receiving beam without contention.

(2) The maximum GSO FSS satellite EIRP spectral density of the digital modulated emission shall not exceed 6 dB (W/4kHz) for all methods of modulation and accessing techniques.

(3) The maximum hub earth station EIRP shall not exceed 78.3 dBW for all methods of multiple access techniques and supporting VSAT network identified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(4) The maximum transmitter power spectral density of an analog carrier into any GSO FSS earth station antenna shall not exceed -8.0 dB(W/4kHz) and the maximum GSO FSS satellite EIRP spectral density shall not exceed +13.0 dB(W/4kHz).

(b) Each applicant for digital and/or analog VSAT network authorization proposing to use transmitted satellite carrier EIRP densities and/or maximum antenna input power in excess of those specified in paragraph (a) of this Section must comply with the procedures set forth in § 25.220.

* * * * *

(d) An application for VSAT authorization shall be filed on FCC Form 312, Main Form and Schedule B. A VSAT licensee applying to renew its license must follow the procedures provided in § 25.121(e)(3).

16. Amend § 25.138 by adding the following sentence immediately succeeding the last sentence of paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) to read as follows:

§ 25.138 Blanket licensing provisions of GSO FSS earth stations in the 18.58–18.8 GHz (space-to-Earth), 19.7–20.2 GHz (space-to-Earth), 28.35–28.6 GHz (Earth-to-space) and 29.5–30.0 GHz (Earth-to-space) bands.

(a) * * *

(1) * * * N = two for Aloha systems. N = 2 times the likely maximum number of co-frequency simultaneously transmitting earth stations in the receive beam of the satellite for CDMA/Aloha systems.

(2) * * * N = two for Aloha systems. N = 2 times the likely maximum number of co-frequency simultaneously transmitting earth stations in the receive beam of the satellite for CDMA/Aloha systems.

* * * * *

§ 25.141 [Removed]

17. Remove § 25.141.

§ 25.144 [Amended]

18. In § 25.144, remove and reserve paragraph (a)(1).

19. Amend § 25.151 by revising paragraphs (c)(2) and (d), and adding paragraph (e) to read as follows:

§ 25.151 Public notice period.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(2) For temporary authorization pursuant to § 25.120.

* * * * *

(d) Except as specified in paragraph (e) of this section, no application that has appeared on public notice will be granted until the expiration of a period of thirty days following the issuance of the public notice listing the application, or any major amendment thereto. Any comments or petitions must be delivered to the Commission by that date in accordance with § 25.154.

(e)(1) Applicants seeking authority to operate a temporary fixed earth station pursuant to § 25.277 may consider their applications “provisionally granted,” and may initiate operations upon the placement of the complete FCC Form 312 application on public notice, provided that

(i) The temporary fixed earth station will operate only in the conventional Ku-band;

(ii) The temporary fixed earth station’s operations will be consistent with all routine-licensing requirements for the conventional Ku-band; and

(iii) The temporary fixed earth station’s operations will be limited to satellites on the Permitted Space Station List.

(2) Applications for authority granted pursuant to paragraph (e)(1) of this section shall be placed on public notice pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) of this

section. If no comments or petitions are filed within 30 days of the public notice date, the authority granted will be considered a regular temporary fixed earth station authorization as of 30 days after the public notice date. If a comment or petition is filed within 30 days of the public notice date, the applicant must suspend operations immediately pending resolution of the issues raised in that comment or petition.

20. Amend § 25.154 by revising paragraphs (c) and (d) and adding paragraph (e) to read as follows:

§ 25.154 Opposition to applications and other pleadings.

* * * * *

(c) Except for opposition to petitions to deny an application filed pursuant to § 25.220, oppositions to petitions to deny an application or responses to comments and informal objections may be filed 10 days after the petition, comment, or objection is filed and must be in accordance with other applicable provisions of §§ 1.41 through 1.52 of this chapter.

(d) Except for opposition to petitions to deny an application filed pursuant to § 25.220, reply comments by the party that filed the original petition may be filed with respect to pleadings filed pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section within 5 days after the time for filing oppositions has expired unless the Commission otherwise extends the filing deadline and must be in accordance with other applicable provisions of §§ 1.41 through 1.52 of this chapter.

(e) If petition to deny an application filed pursuant to § 25.220 is filed, the applicant must file a statement with the Commission explaining whether the applicant has resolved all outstanding coordination issues raised by the petitioner, within 30 days of the date the petition for deny is filed. This statement must be in accordance with the provisions of §§ 1.41 through 1.52 of this chapter applicable to oppositions to petitions to deny.

21. Revise § 25.201 to read as follows:

§ 25.201 Definitions.

(a) Definitions for terms in subpart C of this part appear in paragraph (b) of this section, and in § 2.1 of this chapter.

(b)(1) *Active satellite*. An earth satellite carrying a station intended to transmit or re-transmit radiocommunication signals.

(2) *Base earth station*. An earth station in the fixed-satellite service or, in some cases, in the land mobile-satellite service, located at a specified fixed point or within a specified area on land

to provide a feeder link for the land mobile-satellite service. (RR)

(3) *C-band*. For purposes of this part, the C-band refers specifically to the 3700–4200 MHz downlink and 5925–6425 MHz uplink frequency bands. These paired bands are allocated to the Fixed-Satellite Service and are also referred to as the 4/6 GHz band(s).

(4) *Coordination distance*. For the purposes of this part, the expression “coordination distance” means the distance from an earth station, within which there is a possibility of the use of a given transmitting frequency at this earth station causing harmful interference to stations in the fixed or mobile service, sharing the same band, or of the use of a given frequency for reception at this earth station receiving harmful interference from such stations in the fixed or mobile service.

(5) *Earth station*. A station located either on the Earth’s surface or within the major portion of the Earth’s atmosphere intended for communication:

(i) With one or more space stations; or

(ii) With one or more stations of the same kind by means of one or more reflecting satellites or other objects in space.

(6) *Electronic filing*. The submission of applications, exhibits, pleadings, or other filings to the Commission in an electronic form using Internet or World Wide Web on-line filing forms.

(7) *Equivalent diameter*. When circular aperture reflector antennas are employed, the size of the antenna is generally expressed as the diameter of the antenna’s main reflector. When non-reflector or non-circular aperture antennas are employed, an equivalent diameter can be computed for the antenna. The equivalent diameter is the diameter of a hypothetical circular aperture antenna with the same aperture area as the actual antenna. For example, an elliptical aperture antenna with major axis, a , and minor axis, b , will have an equivalent diameter of $[a \times b]^{1/2}$. A rectangular aperture antenna with length, l , and width, w , will have an equivalent diameter of $[(l \times w)/\pi]^{1/2}$.

(8) *Fixed earth station*. An earth station intended to be used at a specified fixed point.

(9) *Fixed-Satellite Service*. A radiocommunication service between earth stations at given positions, when one or more satellites are used; the given position may be a specified fixed point or any fixed point within specified areas; in some cases this service includes satellite-to-satellite links, which may also be operated in the inter-satellite service; the fixed-satellite service may also include feeder links of

other space radiocommunication services. (RR)

(10) *Full transponder*. Radio emissions or transmissions that occupy, or nearly occupy, the entire satellite transponder. C-band and Ku-band satellite systems typically have transponder bandwidths on the order of 36 MHz or more. Single carrier full transponder transmissions can include full motion analog video, thousands of multiplexed voice channels, or high data rates on the order of 50 Mb/s.

(11) *Geostationary satellite*. A geosynchronous satellite whose circular and direct orbit lies in the plane of the Earth's equator and which thus remains fixed relative to the Earth; by extension, a satellite which remains approximately fixed relative to the Earth.

(12) *Inter-Satellite Service*. A radiocommunication service providing links between artificial earth satellites.

(13) *Ku-band*. In this rule part, the Ku-band refers specifically to the 11700–12200 MHz downlink and 14000–14500 MHz uplink frequency bands. These paired bands are allocated to the Fixed-Satellite Service and are also referred to as the 12/14 GHz band(s).

(14) *Land earth station*. An earth station in the fixed-satellite service or, in some cases, in the mobile-satellite service, located at a specified fixed point or within a specified area on land to provide a feeder link for the mobile-satellite service. (RR)

(15) *Land mobile earth station*. A mobile earth station in the land mobile-satellite service capable of surface movement within the geographical limits of a country or continent. (RR)

(16) *Mobile earth station*. An earth station intended to be used while in motion or during halts at unspecified points.

(17) *Mobile-satellite service*. A radiocommunication service:

(i) Between mobile earth stations and one or more space stations, or between space stations used by this service; or

(ii) Between mobile earth stations, by means of one or more space stations. This service may also include feeder links necessary for its operation. (RR)

(18) *Narrowband*. Radio emissions or transmissions with narrow or limited spectral bandwidths. Narrowband satellite transmissions generally provide a single channel or a very limited number of channels. Narrowband satellite transmissions generally have bandwidths of 40 kHz to 5 MHz.

(19) *Non-Voice, Non-Geostationary mobile-satellite service*. A mobile-satellite service reserved for use by non-geostationary satellites in the provision of non-voice communications which

may include satellite links between land earth stations at fixed locations.

(20) *1.6/2.4 GHz mobile-satellite service*. A mobile-satellite service that operates in the 1610–1626.5 MHz and 2483.5–2500 MHz frequency bands, or in any portion thereof.

(21) *Passive satellite*. An earth satellite intended to transmit radio communication signals by reflection.

(22) *Permitted space station list*. A list of satellites including all U.S.-licensed satellites and those non-U.S.-licensed satellites for which the Commission has authorized U.S.-licensed earth stations to communicate with that satellite, and the satellite operator has requested the Commission to place its satellite on the Permitted Space Station List.

(23) *Power flux density*. The amount of power flow through a unit area within a unit bandwidth. The units of power flux density are those of power spectral density per unit area, namely watts per hertz per square meter. These units are generally expressed in decibel form as dB(W/Hz/m²), dB(W/m²) in a 4 kHz band, or dB(W/m²) in a 1 MHz band.

(24) *Power spectral density*. The amount of an emission's transmitted carrier power falling within the stated reference bandwidth. The units of power spectral density are watts per hertz and are generally express in decibel form as dB(W/Hz), dB(W/4kHz), or dB(W/1MHz).

(25) *Protection areas*. The geographic regions on the surface of the Earth where United States Department of Defense ("DoD") meteorological satellite systems or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA") meteorological satellite systems, or both such systems, are receiving signals from low earth orbiting satellites.

(26) *Radiodetermination-satellite service*. A radiocommunication service for the purpose of radiodetermination involving the use of one of more space stations. This service may also include feeder links necessary for its own operation. (RR)

(27) *Routine processing or licensing*. A licensing process whereby applications are processed in an expedited fashion. Such applications must be complete in all regards and consistent with all Commission Rules and must not raise any policy issues. With respect to earth station licensing, an application is "routine" only if it conforms to all antenna, power, coordination, radiation hazard, and FAA notification rules, and accesses only "Permitted Space Station List" satellites in the C-band or Ku-band frequency bands.

(28) *Satellite Digital Audio Radio Service ("DARS" or "SDARS")*. A radiocommunication service in which audio programming is digitally transmitted by one or more space stations directly to fixed, mobile, and/or portable stations, and which may involve complementary SDARS repeaters, telemetry, tracking and control facilities.

(29) *Satellite system*. A space system using one or more artificial earth satellites.

(30) *Spacecraft*. A man-made vehicle which is intended to go beyond the major portion of the Earth's atmosphere.

(31) *Space operation service*. A radiocommunication service concerned exclusively with the operation of spacecraft, in particular space tracking, space telemetry and space telecommand. These functions will normally be provided within the service in which the space station is operating.

(32) *Space radiocommunication*. Any radiocommunication involving the use of one or more space stations or the use of one or more reflecting satellites or other objects in space.

(33) *Space station*. A station located on an object which is beyond, is intended to go beyond, or has been beyond, the major portion of the Earth's atmosphere.

(34) *Space system*. Any group of cooperating earth stations and/or space stations employing space radiocommunication for specific purposes.

(35) *Space telecommand*. The use of radiocommunication for the transmission of signals to a space station to initiate, modify or terminate function of the equipment on a space object, including the space station.

(36) *Space telemetering*. The use of telemetering for the transmission from a space station of results of measurements made in a spacecraft, including those relating to the functioning of the spacecraft.

(37) *Space tracking*. Determination of the orbit, velocity or instantaneous position of an object in space by means of radiodetermination, excluding primary radar, for the purpose of following the movement of the object.

(38) *Temporary fixed earth station*. An earth station operating in the Fixed Satellite Service at a fixed location for less than 6 months. Temporary fixed earth stations are transportable facilities that are moved to the point of operation before communicating. They are often used for emergency restoration of service and news gathering functions. Temporary fixed earth stations do not operate while in motion.

(39) *Terrestrial radiocommunication.* Any radiocommunication other than space radiocommunication or radio astronomy.

(40) *Terrestrial station.* A station effecting terrestrial radiocommunication.

(41) *Wideband.* See *Full transponder.*

§ 25.202 [Amended]

22. In § 25.202, remove and reserve paragraph (a)(2).

23. In § 25.204, revise paragraphs (a) and (b) to read as follows:

§ 25.204 Power limits.

(a) In bands shared coequally with terrestrial radio communication services, the equivalent isotropically radiated power transmitted in any direction towards the horizon by an earth station operating in frequency bands between 1 and 15 GHz, shall not exceed the following limits except as provided for in paragraph (c) of this section:

+40 dBW in any 4 kHz band for $\theta < 0^\circ$
 +40+3 θ dBW in any 4 kHz band for $0^\circ < \theta \leq 5^\circ$

where θ is the angle of elevation of the horizon viewed from the center of radiation of the antenna of the earth station and measured in degrees as positive above the horizontal plane and negative below it.

(b) In bands shared coequally with terrestrial radio-communication services, the equivalent isotropically radiated power transmitted in any direction towards the horizon by an earth station operating in frequency bands above 15 GHz shall not exceed the following limits except as provided for in paragraph (c) of this section:

+64 dBW in any 1 MHz band for $\theta < 0^\circ$
 +64+3 θ dBW in any 1 MHz band for $0^\circ < \theta \leq 5^\circ$

where θ is as defined in paragraph (a) of this section.

* * * * *

24. In § 25.209, revise paragraph (f) to read as follows:

§ 25.209 Antenna performance standards.

* * * * *

(f) An earth station with an antenna not conforming to the standards of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section will be authorized after February 15, 1985 upon finding by the Commission that unacceptable levels of interference will not be caused under conditions of uniform 2° orbital spacing. An earth station antenna initially authorized on or before February 15, 1985 will be authorized by the Commission to continue to operate as long as such operations are found not to cause

unacceptable levels of adjacent satellite interference. In either case, the Commission will impose appropriate terms and conditions in its authorization of such facilities and operations. The applicant has the burden of demonstrating that its antenna not conforming to the standards of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section will not cause unacceptable interference. This demonstration must comply with the procedures set forth in § 25.220.

* * * * *

25. In § 25.211, revise paragraph (d) and add paragraphs (e), (f), and (g) to read as follows:

§ 25.211 Video transmissions in the Fixed-Satellite Services.

* * * * *

(d) An earth station may be routinely licensed for transmission to full transponder services provided:

(1) In the 6 GHz band, with an antenna equivalent diameter 4.5 meters or greater, the maximum power into the antenna does not exceed 26.5 dBW; or

(2) In the 14 GHz band, with an antenna equivalent diameter 1.2 meters or greater, the maximum power into the antenna does not exceed 27 dBW.

(e) Antennas with an equivalent diameter smaller than those specified in paragraph (d) of this section are subject to the provisions of § 25.220 of this chapter, which may include power reduction requirements. These antennas will not be routinely licensed for transmission of full transponder services.

(f) Each applicant for authorization for video transmissions in the fixed-satellite service proposing to use transmitted satellite carrier EIRP densities, and/or maximum power into the antenna in excess of those specified in § 25.211(d), must comply with the procedures set forth in § 25.220.

(g) The Commission has authority to apply the power level limits in this section to earth station applications for authority to operate in any other FSS frequency band to the extent it deems necessary to prevent unacceptable interference into adjacent satellite systems, to the extent that power limits have not been established elsewhere in this part.

26. Section 25.212 is amended by:

a. Adding the following sentence immediately succeeding the last sentence of paragraph (c).

b. Revising paragraph (d).

c. Adding paragraphs (e) and (f).

The additions and revisions read as follows:

§ 25.212 Narrowband transmissions in the Fixed-Satellite Service.

(c) * * * Antennas with an equivalent diameter smaller than 1.2 meters in the 14 GHz band are subject to the provisions of § 25.220 of this chapter, which may include power reduction requirements.

(d)(1) In the 6 GHz band, an earth station with an equivalent diameter of 4.5 meters or greater may be routinely licensed for transmission of SCPC services if the maximum power densities into the antenna do not exceed +0.5 dBW/4 kHz for analog SCPC carriers with bandwidths up to 200 kHz, and do not exceed -2.7 dBW/4 kHz for narrow and/or wideband digital SCPC carriers. Antennas with an equivalent diameter smaller than 1.2 meters in the 14 GHz band are subject to the provisions of § 25.220, which may include power reduction requirements.

(2) In the 6 GHz band, an earth station with an equivalent diameter antenna of 4.5 meters or greater may be routinely licensed for transmission of SCPC services if the maximum power spectral densities into the antenna do not exceed + 0.5 dB(W/4kHz) for analog SCPC carriers with bandwidths up to 200 kHz and do not exceed $-2.7-10\log(N)$ dB (W/4kHz) for narrow and/or wideband digital SCPC carriers.

(i) For digital SCPC using frequency division multiple access (FDMA) or time division multiple access (TDMA) technique, N is equal to one.

(ii) For digital SCPC using code division multiple access (CDMA) technique, N is the likely maximum number of co-frequency simultaneously transmitting earth stations in the same satellite receiving beam.

(iii) For digital SCPC using contention Aloha multiple access technique, N is equal to two.

(iv) For digital SCPC using contention CDMA/Aloha multiple access technique, N is twice the likely maximum number of co-frequency simultaneously transmitting earth stations in the same satellite-receiving beam without contention.

(e) Each applicant for authorization for narrowband transmissions in the fixed-satellite service proposing to use transmitted satellite carrier EIRP densities, and/or maximum antenna input power densities in excess of those specified in paragraph (c) of this section for Ku-band service, or paragraph (d) of this section for C-band service, respectively, must comply with the procedures set forth in § 25.220.

(f) The Commission has authority to apply the power level limits in this section to earth station applications for authority to operate in any other FSS

frequency band to the extent it deems necessary to prevent unacceptable interference into adjacent satellite systems, to the extent that power limits have not been established elsewhere in this part.

27. Section 25.220 is added to read as follows:

§ 25.220 Non-conforming transmit/receive earth station operations.

(a)(1) This section applies to earth station applications in which:

(i) The proposed antenna does not conform to the standards of § 25.209(a) and § 25.209(b), and/or

(ii) The proposed power density levels are in excess of those specified in § 25.134, § 25.211, or § 25.212, or those derived by the procedure set forth in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, whichever is applicable.

(2) Paragraphs (b) through (e) and (g) of this section apply to the earth station applications described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, in which the applicant seeks transmit/receive authority.

(3) Paragraphs (f) and (g) of this section applies to the earth station applications described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section in which the applicant seeks transmit-only or receive-only authority.

(4) The requirements for petitions to deny applications filed pursuant to this section are set forth in § 25.154.

(b) If an antenna proposed for use by the applicant does not comply with the antenna performance standards contained in § 25.209(a) and (b), the applicant must provide, as an exhibit to its FCC Form 312 application, the antenna gain patterns specified in § 25.132(b).

(c) If an antenna proposed for use by the applicant does not comply with the performance standards contained in § 25.209(a) and (b), the applicant must meet the requirements of either paragraph (c)(1) or (c)(2) of this section to obtain protection from receiving interference from adjacent satellite operators. The applicant must meet the requirements of either paragraph (c)(1) or (c)(3) of this section to obtain authority to transmit.

(1) The applicant must provide in its Form 312, Schedule B, the power and power density levels that result by reducing the values stated in §§ 25.134, 25.211, or 25.212, whichever is applicable, by the number of decibels that the non-compliant antenna fails to meet the antenna performance standard of § 25.209(a) and (b), or

(2) The applicant will not receive protection from adjacent satellite interference from any satellite unless

the applicant has provided the affidavits listed in paragraph (d)(1) of this section from the operator of that satellite(s).

(3) The applicant will not be permitted to transmit to any satellite unless the applicant has provided the affidavits listed in paragraph (e)(1) of this section from the operator of that satellite(s).

(d)(1) If an antenna proposed for use by the applicant does not comply with the performance standards contained in § 25.209(a) and (b), the applicant must submit the affidavits listed in paragraphs (d)(1)(i) through (d)(1)(iv) of this section to qualify for protection from receiving interference from other satellite systems. The applicant will be granted protection from receiving interference only with respect to the satellite systems included in the coordination agreements referred to in the affidavit required by paragraph (d)(1)(ii) of this section, and only to the extent that protection from receiving interference is afforded by those coordination agreements.

(i) A statement from the satellite operator acknowledging that the proposed operation of the subject non-conforming earth station with its satellite(s) has the potential to receive interference from adjacent satellite networks that may be unacceptable.

(ii) A statement from the satellite operator that it has coordinated the operation of the subject non-conforming earth station accessing its satellite(s), including its required downlink power density based on the information contained in the application, with all adjacent satellite networks within 6° of orbital separation from its satellite(s), and the operations will not violate any existing coordination agreement for its satellite(s) with other satellite systems.

(iii) A statement from the satellite operator that it will include the subject non-conforming earth station operations in all future satellite network coordinations, and

(iv) A statement from the Earth station applicant certifying that it will comply with all coordination agreements reached by the satellite operator(s).

(2) A license granted pursuant to paragraph (d)(1) of this section will include, as a condition on that license, that if no good faith agreement can be reached between the satellite operator and the operator of a future 2° compliant satellite, the earth station operator shall accept the power density levels that would accommodate the 2° compliant satellite.

(e)(1) An earth station applicant proposing to use transmitted satellite carrier EIRP densities, and/or maximum power into the antenna in excess of the

levels in §§ 25.134, 25.211, 25.212, or the power density levels derived through the procedure set forth in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, whichever is applicable, shall provide the following affidavits as an exhibit to its earth station application:

(i) A statement from the satellite operator acknowledging that the proposed operation of the subject non-conforming earth station with its satellite(s) has the potential to create interference to adjacent satellite networks that may be unacceptable.

(ii) A statement from the satellite operator that it has coordinated the operation of the subject non-conforming Earth Station accessing its satellite(s), and its corresponding downlink power density requirements (based on the information contained in the application) with all adjacent satellite networks within 6° of orbital separation from its satellite(s), and the operations will not violate any existing coordination agreement for its satellite(s) with other satellite systems.

(iii) A statement from the satellite operator that it will include the subject non-conforming Earth Station power and power densities in all future satellite network coordinations, and

(iv) A statement from the Earth station applicant certifying that it will comply with all coordination agreements reached by the satellite operator(s).

(2) A license granted pursuant to paragraph (e)(1) of this section will include, as a condition on that license, that if no good faith agreement can be reached between the satellite operator and the operator of a future 2° compliant satellite, the earth station operator shall reduce its power to those levels that would accommodate the 2° compliant satellite.

(f)(1) If an earth station applicant requests transmit-only authority, and its proposed antenna does not conform to the standards of § 25.209(a) and (b), it must meet the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

(2) If an earth station applicant requests transmit-only authority, and its proposed proposed power density levels are in excess of those specified in §§ 25.134, 25.211, or 25.212, or those derived by the procedure set forth in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, it must meet the requirements of paragraph (e) of this section.

(3) If an earth station applicant requests receive-only authority, and its proposed antenna does not conform to the standards of § 25.209(a) and (b), it must meet the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (d) of this section.

(g) Applicants filing applications for earth stations pursuant to this section

must provide the following information for the Commission's public notice:

(1) Detailed description of the service to be provided, including frequency bands and satellites to be used.

(2) The diameter of the antenna.

(3) Proposed power and power density levels.

(4) Identification of any random access technique listed in § 25.134(a).

(5) Identification of any rule or rules for which a waiver is requested.

28. In § 25.274, revise paragraph (g) to read as follows:

§ 25.274 Procedures to be followed in the event of harmful interference.

* * * * *

(g) Where the earth station suspected of causing interference to the operations of another earth station cannot be identified or is identified as an earth station operating on a satellite system other than the one on which the earth station suffering undue interference is operating, it is the responsibility of a representative of the earth station suffering harmful interference to contact the control center of other satellite systems. The operator of the earth station suffering undue interference is free to choose any representative to make this contact, including but not limited to the operator of the satellite system on which the earth station is operating. The operator of the earth station suffering undue interference is also free to contact the control center of the other satellite systems directly.

29. Amend § 25.277 by adding paragraph (f) to read as follows:

§ 25.277 Temporary fixed earth station operations.

* * * * *

(f) Filing requirements concerning applications for new temporary fixed earth station facilities operating in frequency bands shared co-equally with terrestrial fixed stations.

(1) When the initial location of the temporary fixed earth station's operation is known, the applicant shall provide, as part of the Form 312 application, a frequency coordination report in accordance with § 25.203 for the initial station location.

(2) When the initial location of the temporary fixed earth station's operation is not known at the time the application is filed, the applicant shall provide, as part of the Form 312 application, a statement by the applicant acknowledging its coordination responsibilities under § 25.277.

PART 25—[AMENDED]

30. Part 25 is amended by removing subpart H.

[FR Doc. 01-88 Filed 1-5-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

49 CFR Part 10

[Docket No. OST-96-1437; Notice 2000-1]

RIN 2105-AC57

Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: DOT proposes to exempt from certain provisions of the Privacy Act the record system designed to assist in finding Suspected Unapproved Parts used in aviation, and a record system used to manage the flow of data about commercial motor carriers. An editorial correction is also proposed to some existing language. Public comment is invited.

DATES: Comments are due February 20, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Documentary Services Division, Attention: Docket Section, Room PL401, Docket No. OST-96-1437, Department of Transportation, SVC-124, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Any person wishing acknowledgment that his/her comments have been received should include a self-addressed stamped postcard. Comments received will be available for public inspection and copying in the Documentary Services Division, Room PL401, Department of Transportation Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, from 9 AM to 5 PM ET Monday through Friday except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yvonne Coates, S-80, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590-0001; telephone: 202-366-6964; fax: 202-366-7024; e-mail: yvonne.coates@ost.dot.gob.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Aviation.* To assist in the ongoing campaign of the Department's Federal Aviation Administration against defective and dangerous parts being used in aircraft, DOT is establishing a Privacy Act record system in which evidence will be gathered as investigations are conducted (DOT/FAA 852 Suspected Unapproved

Parts (SUP) Program). *Motor Carriage.* The recent establishment of DOT's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has led to the development of a management information system (Motor Carrier Management Information System, DOT/FMCSA 001) that will encompass, among other things, safety investigations of commercial motor carriers and of their drivers. In both instances, investigations can result in criminal prosecutions. To facilitate the cooperation of persons who have information relevant to these investigations and who ask for confidentiality as a condition of their providing that information, DOT proposes to exempt these systems from subsections (c)(3) (Accounting for Certain Disclosures), (d) (Access to Records), (e)(4)(G), (H), and (I) (Agency Requirements), and (f) (Agency Rules) of the Privacy Act, 5 USC 552a. If we do not exempt this system from these provisions, persons who are subjects of investigation will be able to learn that they are and who has provided information about them, both of which could well frustrate any investigation.

Finally, in the Appendix, a reference to subsection (e)(4)(I) was inadvertently omitted from, and section (g) was inadvertently included in explanatory paragraph 2 at the end of, paragraph A.

List of subjects in 49 CFR Part 10

Privacy.

Accordingly, DOT proposes to amend the Appendix of Part 10 of 49 CFR as follows:

1. The authority citation for Part 10 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 USC 552a; 49 USC 322.

2. Part II A. of the Appendix is amended by adding new paragraphs 17 and 18, and by revising the first sentence of explanatory paragraph 2 to read as follows:

* * * * *

Part II. Specific Exemptions.

A. The following systems of records are exempt from subsections (c)(3) (Accounting of Certain Disclosures), (d) (Access to Records), (e)(4)(G), (H), (I) (Agency Requirements) and (f) (Agency rules) of 5 USC 552a, to the extent that they contain investigatory material for law enforcement purposes in accordance with 5 USC 552a(k)(2):

17. Suspected Unapproved Parts (SUP) Program, maintained by the Federal Aviation Administration (DOT/FAA 852).

18. Motor Carrier Management Information System (MCMIS), maintained by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (DOT/FMCSA 001).

These exemptions are justified for the following reasons:

* * * * *