

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

December 22, 2014

Mr. Naren Gursahaney
President & CEO
The ADT Corporation
1501 Yamato Road
Boca Raton, FL 33431

Re: EB-FIELDNER-14-00017944

Dear Mr. Gursahaney:

The Federal Communications Commission has received complaints that an ADT alarm system may be causing harmful radio interference to an operator in the Amateur Radio Service. The ADT customer in this case is:

(Name withheld)
(Address withheld)
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

The licensed radio Amateur is:

(Name withheld)
(Address withheld)
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
Tel: (Number withheld)

(Name withheld) reports he is experiencing high levels of radio noise from the ADT system. Based on this report, the noise is strong enough that the Commission could consider it to be harmful interference. The Commission has the responsibility to require operators of systems that cause such interference to rectify these problems within a reasonable time.

Under FCC rules, most electronic devices and equipment are classified as an "unintentional radiators." This term is used to describe equipment that intentionally generates radio-frequency energy but does not intentionally radiate it. Another common device classification is the "incidental radiator." This type of equipment does not intentionally generate any radio-frequency energy, but may create such energy as an incidental part of its intended operation. In either case, under FCC rules, such equipment must not be operated in such a way that it causes harmful interference to a licensed radio service.

To help you better understand these responsibilities under FCC rules, here are the most important rules relating to radio and television interference from unintentional and incidental radiators:

Title 47, CFR Section 15.5 General conditions of operation.

(b) Operation of an intentional, unintentional, or incidental radiator is subject to the conditions that no harmful interference is caused and that interference must be accepted that may be caused by the operation of an authorized radio station, by another intentional or unintentional radiator, by industrial, scientific and medical (ISM) equipment, or by an incidental radiator.

(c) The operator of the radio frequency device shall be required to cease operating the device upon notification by a Commission representative that the device is causing harmful interference. Operation shall not resume until the condition causing the harmful interference has been corrected.

Title 47, CFR Section 15.13 Incidental radiators.

Manufacturers of these devices shall employ good engineering practices to minimize the risk of harmful interference.

Title 47, CFR Section 15.15 General technical requirements.

(c) Parties responsible for equipment compliance should note that the limits specified in this part will not prevent harmful interference under all circumstances. Since the operators of Part 15 devices are required to cease operation should harmful interference occur to authorized users of the radio frequency spectrum, the parties responsible for equipment compliance are encouraged to employ the minimum field strength necessary for communications, to provide greater attenuation of unwanted emissions than required by these regulations, and to advise the user as to how to resolve harmful interference problems (for example, see Sec. 15.105(b)).

So far, the complainant has attempted unsuccessfully to resolve this problem and as a result the matter has been referred to our office. We would appreciate anything you can do to help resolve this problem. I would also encourage you or someone from ADT to contact (name withheld) directly using the information previously provided.

If you have any questions about this matter or the FCC rules, please contact me in writing at 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Laura L. Smith, Esq.
Special Counsel
Enforcement Bureau

cc: San Diego Field Office
Western Regional Director