

Federal Communications Commission Enforcement Bureau GPS Enforcement Issues

Federal Communications Commission
GPS Protection and Receiver Performance Workshop
June 20, 2014



Background

The Communications Act's Jammer Prohibition



● Legal Framework

- Broad statutory prohibition on civil use: The Communications Act prohibits the operation, manufacture, importation, marketing, and sale of equipment designed to block, jam, or otherwise interfere with authorized radio communications (e.g., GPS, cell phone, Wi-Fi, and radar communications).
- Violation of the jamming prohibition can lead to substantial monetary penalties (up to \$122,500 for any single act), seizure of the illegal jammer, and criminal sanctions including imprisonment.

● Enforcement Bureau Activities Relating to GPS jammers

- Market surveillance
- Interference investigations
- Interagency Coordination



Background

GPS Interference Issues



- **FCC Complaints about GPS Interference are limited**
 - Small GPS jammer impact still comparatively rare and small scale (based on what we see in incoming complaints and in the Field).
 - Majority of GPS interference complaints investigated by FCC field agents were not identified as jammers.
 - ✦ More than half were intermittent problems that did not reoccur;
 - ✦ Several interference complaints were isolated to equipment problems;



GPS Jammer Enforcement Strategy

Ensuring Efficient and Effective Enforcement



- **GPS Jammer Enforcement Strategy**
 - **Prevent GPS jammers from coming into the U.S.**
 - ✦ *Monitor retailer and marketplace websites.*
 - ✦ *Take enforcement action against jammer marketers, manufacturers and importers.*
 - **Get GPS jammers off the streets and out of the hands of users**
 - ✦ *Create significant monetary disincentives to use.*
 - ✦ *Issue monetary penalties against domestic users.*
 - **Partner with industry and other agencies**
 - ✦ *Work with the private sector and federal, state, and local agencies to prevent the unlawful marketing, importation and sale of GPS jammers.*



Key Enforcement Actions

Aggressive Enforcement Actions to Deter the Use of Jammers



- **To get all types of jammers off the streets and out of the hands of users, in the past year the FCC took more aggressive enforcement actions.**
 - **GPS Jammers**
 - June 2014 – Record Forfeiture to foreign marketer of GPS Jammers (\$34.9 Million)
 - August 2013 – Forfeiture to individual use of GPS Jammer (\$31,875) .
 - **Cell Jammers**
 - April 2013 - Manufacturing plant using multiple cell jammers– (\$29,250) .

More at: <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/jammer-enforcement>

Thank You!

