Modular Transmitters

TCB Workshop April 2013

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Certified Transmitter Modules (Modules)

Module Review for Grantee
- Importance of OEM instructions
- Host dependency

Guidance for Host Manufactures
- Basics for using modules
- Steps to take for ensuring regulatory compliance:
  - Single & multiple modules transmitting simultaneously
  - EMC Requirements & Total power requirements
  - RF Exposure
- Approval Procedures
§ 15.212 (vii) ...provide adequate instructions along with the module to explain any such requirements. A copy of these instructions must be included in the application for equipment authorization.

- Regulatory rules covered by the module
- Other general regulatory requirements
  - RF safety requirement conditions
- Define all conditional module use requirements
- Host platform requirement and dependencies (i.e. software or hardware control of RF) that is applicable
- Conditions for Co-location of other transmitters and Simultaneous transmission conditions.
- Antennas that must be used (licensed and unlicensed)
- Information and labeling requirements for final Host & end User disclosures.
- Restrictions on modification

April 9-10, 2013  TCB Workshop
# Host Dependent – Limited Conditions

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<th>Host Dependency (limited)</th>
<th>Host Needed for</th>
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| **A** Particular (Specific) host | Only granted in specific Host:  
  • RF Exposure |
| **B** Host platform type provides additional hardware capabilities for proper module operation | Only granted in host that demonstrates having additional:  
  Shielding amplitude buffered inputs  
  power regulation, antenna calibration |
| **C** Host integrator and Module grantee have shared responsibility for Compliance | Host involved/controls/sets frequency, power, modulation, operating condition, regulatory domain. |
Host Dependent – Limited Conditions

(A) Limited to Particular Host

Compliance with RF exposure can only be demonstrated for particular product configurations. Certification must be tested in the particular host.

(B) Limited to Host Platform Types

Compliance is ensured when integrated in hosts that provide similar capabilities

- Authorization application must clearly include the conditions the host must provide: e.g., shielding, minimum signaling amplitude, buffered modulation/data inputs, or power supply regulation, antenna locations, software configurations.
- OEM instructions must clearly list conditions
  - Grantee may also retain design control
Host Dependent – Limited Conditions

(C) Modules that use or require the host based configurations

- Configurations set through host
- Examples include controller chip, or any other parameter to set frequency, power, modulation or operating condition to operate as granted is a host shared dependent module
  - For other software options later discussions
- Limited by joint responsibility - options
  - Split modular or similar in certification procedure.
  - Host and module require an authentication/security method defined in the application, grant conditions and OEM Instructions.
  - Not accessible and changeable by any third parties (Similar/or SDR).
  - Contractual joint responsibilities agreement
  - Under PBA
Guidance for Host Manufactures

Host Manufactures using a module(s) are responsible for compliance to all the rules that apply to the product.
- No different than a product not using modules.

The advantages of a module are: reduction in (1) testing and/or (2) certification procedure(s).

Regulatory compliance required for general conditions of operation, licensing, marketing, importation, labeling, identification and information to users.

Most modules are not certified to operate with other modules
- No Collocation conditions may be applicable (TCBs must use this condition if really necessary)
- Additional testing and certification may be necessary when multiple modules are used
- OEM instructions must make this clear
Host Integrator Considerations

Steps to be considered by Host Integrator

– Identify all rules applicable for the host product
– Determine the areas covered by the module grants and identify additional regulatory issues to be addressed

• Case 1 – The integrated host complies with all rules and no new submission necessary to the FCC
• Case 2 – Additional compliance information to be submitted to the FCC
Host Integrator – EMC Considerations

EMC Consideration

- §§ 15.31, 2.1041, 2.1091, 2.1093 requirements must be satisfied
  - Demonstrate that the final host product is compliant with all transmitters operating simultaneously, if applicable.
- Host Manufacture can use reasonable engineering judgment & testing following the requirements of §15.31 and procedures outlined for verification (§§ 2.953 and 2.948)
- Out-of-band, restricted band and spurious requirements for single and/or simultaneous operation must be considered
In Band Power Limit for Simultaneous (Multiple Modules) when used in the same band (KDB 662911 applies)

- A set of modules used in the same band transmitting simultaneously, each individual module (transmitters) must comply with its specific requirement. The total power contribution from all modules (transmitters) can not exceed the power level permitted in that band for the operation type (point to multipoint, point to point, Omni directional)

- For example:
  - One < 75 FHS (125 mW limit) 2.4 GHz module Plus 1 DTS (1 W limit) 2.4 GHz module, non pt.-to-pt., the total power of both modules would be limited to 1 watt or 125 mW FHS module Plus 750 mw DTS module
  - Four - DTS (1 W Limit.) 2.4 GHz modules, 4 separate 6dBi antennas non overlapping beams antenna would be limited to 1 w per module. 15/247 (c) (2) smart antenna rules
  - Four- DTS/UNII (1 W/ea. Limit) 5725-5825 modules, pt.-to-pt., would also be limited to 1 W or 250 mW per module
Host Integrator – RF Exposure Considerations

RF Exposure Evaluations
  – Must review applicable KDB General and Host Guidance (Applicable procedures)
  – Multiple Modules transmitting Simultaneously
    • The grant note “not to be co-located with any other transmitters except in accordance with the FCC multi-transmitter product procedures” means that the module can not be co-located without further evaluation/certification.
    • Host manufacture may have to perform additional tests to demonstrate compliance in all modes
Case 1 – No FCC Submission Required

If the Host Integrator determines after all the evaluations that the host will continue to comply under all conditions, no submission is necessary to the FCC.

Manufacturer must maintain records of the final tests as per requirements of Section 2.953 and 2.948 as a guide. FCC may request to inspect the records.
Case 2 – FCC Submission Required

If the Host manufacture determines that the compliance information provided for each of the module is not sufficient to cover the host conditions, additional information must be provided to FCC.

- Require updating EMC compliance for the modules through power management
- Require additional RF Exposure information
- Require Host use condition limitations for compliance – like indoor operation or master control

Additional Certification Options must be used.
Additional Certification Options

Module Grantee files a permissive change or a change in ID (module grantee code) to address additional requirements.
  - In case of multiple modules one module grantee files (use one main module as a non certified sub-assembly)
    • Use one module to establish a certification record:
    • it is permissible to upload relevant test reports.
    • Additional test reports can be provided to demonstrate full compliance
    • Have written permission from the original grantee.

Host integrator requests a new ID for one module
  - Have written permission from the original grantee.
  - Additional test reports can be provided to demonstrate full compliance

Host integrator requests a new FCC ID (all modules treated as non certified sub-assemblies)
  - Permissible to upload original relevant test reports from module grants
  - Have written permission from the original grantee(s).
  - Additional test reports to be provided to demonstrate full compliance

Details in Question 1 of KDB996369
Questions and Answers

Thanks!