Review of the Commission's Equipment Authorization Proceedings

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Background

- The Commission's Equipment Authorization (EA) program ensures that radiofrequency (RF) devices, everything from smartphones and tablets to cellular base stations to car door openers and anti-theft tags, comply with our technical requirements before they are imported, marketed or operated within the United States.

Review of the Commission's Equipment Authorization Program

- Original plan first presented at June 2012 Commission Meeting called for a review in two stages:
  - **First NPRM – TCB Obligations**
    - Consider:
      - Refine & codify PBA procedure
      - Clarify TCB obligations for post-grant checks
      - Require accreditation for all test labs
      - Recognize latest industry testing standards
  - **Second NPRM – Administrative Procedures**
    - Consider:
      - Merge different self-approval procedures
      - Modify permissive change and Software Defined Radio rules
      - Certify modular transmitters for licensed services

First Stage
Review of EA Program

- Report and Order (FCC14-208) adopted December 17, 2014:
  - TCBs to process all certifications
  - Pre-grant approvals
  - Post-market surveillance
  - TCB performance
  - Updated ISO/IEC standard references
  - Laboratory accreditation for certification applications

TCB Workshop

Standards

- Updated references to industry measurement procedures in the Commission's rules; and

- Provided greater flexibility under the Office of Engineering and Technology's (OET) existing delegated authority when updating to the latest versions of industry standards.

Second Stage Review of EA Program

- **NPRM** – In 2015, we issued a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (*NPRM*) that included a comprehensive set of proposals to update our equipment authorization processes.

- **ORDER** – First Report and Order (FCC 17-93) was adopted on July 13, 2017.

Overview

- First Report and Order addresses the following:
  - reduces the burden associated with certain equipment authorization rules;
  - provides flexibility to use electronic labelling; and
  - eliminates the requirement to file a form with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for RF devices imported into the United States.

SDoC

- Combines Two Self-Approval Processes into One new Procedure:
    - Combines the Declaration of Conformity and Verification processes into one, called the Supplier's Declaration of Conformity (SDoC).
    - Generally retains the less burdensome requirement.
    - This will both simplify and reduce burdens associated with the equipment authorization process.

E-Labeling

- Allow Electronic Labeling:
  - Provide for the use of electronic labeling for the information required under our rules, such as the FCC identification number and compliance statement, to be displayed on products or otherwise provided with products.

Importation

- Update Importation Requirements:
    - Eliminate the requirement to file the import declaration for RF devices brought into the United States, FCC Form 740, with CBP.
    - Clarify the compliance requirements related to imported devices and to provide additional flexibility in certain cases.

Measurement Procedures

- Update Measurement Procedures and Clarify Standards:
  - Revised Commission measurement procedures to streamline and consolidate requirements for devices used in different services.
    - Included reference to Knowledge Data Base (KDB) guidance publications in rules.
    - Composite devices rules in Part 2.
    - Incorporated ANSI C63.26-2015 in Part 2.

Future Issues

- We will address at a later time other proposals from the NPRM in a Second Report and Order:

  - Update the certification requirements for devices assembled from modular components,

  - Specify the requirements that apply to parties that are "responsible" for different types of certified equipment,

Future Issues

- Add provisions to prevent the unauthorized modification of the software and firmware that ensure that and RF device complies with FCC rules that prevent harmful interference, and

- Address the number of devices that can be imported for personal use.

Questions?