



PUBLIC NOTICE

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NOTICE REGARDING FCC CERTIFICATION OF EAS DECODER

Low Power FM Stations Must Install Certified EAS Decoders Within One Year of Publication of this Public Notice in Federal Register Cable Systems Serving Fewer Than 5,000 Subscribers May Comply with October 1, 2002 Deadline to Install EAS Equipment by Installing Certified EAS Decoder

In a Report and Order released on February 26, 2002, the Federal Communications Commission granted low power FM stations a temporary blanket waiver of the requirement in the EAS rules to install FCC-certified decoders.¹ The Commission based grant of the waiver on the fact that, at that time, there were no FCC-certified EAS decoders on the market. The Commission concurrently amended the EAS rules to exempt low power FM stations from installing FCC-certified EAS decoders until one year after the Commission published in the Federal Register a Public Notice indicating that at least one EAS decoder has been certified.² Finally, the Commission also amended the EAS rules in the Report and Order to permit cable systems serving fewer than 5,000 subscribers to use an FCC-certified decoder, if such a device became available by October 1, 2002, in lieu of an encoder/decoder unit.

On July 23, 2002, the Commission staff granted an equipment authorization for an Emergency Alert System ("EAS") decoder unit to equipment manufacturer TFT, Inc.

Accordingly, within one year of publication of this Public Notice in the *Federal Register*, low power FM stations will be required to install certified EAS decoders. In addition, cable systems that serve fewer than 5,000 subscribers may comply with the Commission's requirement to install EAS equipment by October 1, 2002, by installing a certified EAS decoder, rather than both an encoder and a decoder.³

For further information contact John Winston at 202-418-7450 or Bonnie Gay at (202) 418-1228.

By the Chief, Technical and Public Safety Division, Enforcement Bureau.

¹ *Amendment of Part 11 of the Commission's Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System, (Report and Order)*, EB Docket No. 01-66, 17 FCC Rcd 4055 (2002) ("*Report and Order*").

² See 47 C.F.R. §11.11.

³ *Report and Order*, 17 FCC Rcd at 4082.

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