



PUBLIC NOTICE

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FCC's PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU SETS TIMETABLE IN MOTION FOR COMMERCIAL MOBILE SERVICE PROVIDERS TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM THAT WILL DELIVER ALERTS TO MOBILE DEVICES

PS Docket No. 07-287

Washington D.C. – The Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) of the Federal Communications Commission today initiated the 28-month period during which participating Commercial Mobile Service (CMS) providers must develop, test and deploy the Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS). This period was established by the Commission in 2008 and developed pursuant to the WARN Act.¹ The CMAS is a voluntary service through which CMS providers that elect to do so may deliver timely and accurate emergency alerts and warnings to the public over cell phones and other mobile devices.² PSHSB is taking this action as required by section 10.11 of the Commission's rules,³ which states that participating CMS providers must begin to develop and test the CMAS no later than 10 months from the date that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) makes available design specifications for the Government Interface that will allow FEMA to deliver alerts to participating CMS providers.⁴ The end of that development and testing period will trigger an implementation and deployment period, not exceeding 18 months, culminating in the availability of the CMAS to the public.⁵

Today, FEMA and the FCC jointly announced that FEMA has adopted the CMAS Government Interface Design specifications.⁶ Accordingly, as provided in the *CMAS Third Report and Order*, the 28 month period will begin immediately and can be completed anytime thereafter, but in any event no later than April 7, 2012.⁷

The FCC rules establishing the CMAS require an end-to-end architecture, in which a Federal Alert Aggregator/Gateway would receive, authenticate, and format alerts received by Federal, state, tribal, and local government agencies and then transmit them over a secure interface to gateways administered

¹ See The Commercial Mobile Alert System, *Third Report and Order*, 23 FCC Rcd 12561, 12582-83 (2008) (*CMAS Third Report and Order*). See also Warning, Alert and Response Network ("WARN") Act, Title VI of the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act of 2006, Pub. L. No. 109-347, 120 Stat. 1884 (2006).

² See, e.g., The Commercial Mobile Alert System, *First Report and Order*, 23 FCC Rcd 6144 (2008) (*CMAS First Report & Order*).

³ 47 C.F.R. § 10.11; see also *CMAS Third Report and Order*, 23 FCC Rcd at 12582-83.

⁴ CMS providers will then deliver these alerts to the public via their cell phones and other mobile devices.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ FEMA/FCC Announce FEMA's Adoption Of Standards To Create Gateway Interface For Wireless Carriers To Receive And Deliver Mobile Emergency Alerts And Warnings To The Public. Joint FEMA/FCC Press Release dated December 7, 2009.

⁷ The 10-month period for development and testing will end on October 7, 2010.

by participating CMS providers. The CMS providers would, in turn, process the alerts and transmit them to their subscribers' mobile devices.⁸

For further information regarding this matter, contact Jeffery Goldthorp, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, (202) 418-1096, Jeffery.Goldthorp@fcc.gov.

⁸ See 47 C.F.R. §§ 10.1, *et seq.* See also, *CMAS First Report and Order*, 23 FCC Rcd 6144, 6145.