



PUBLIC NOTICE

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**PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU ANNOUNCES
EFFECTIVE DATE FOR TEXT-TO-911 BOUNCE-BACK ROAMING RULE ADOPTED
IN SEPTEMBER 27, 2013 ORDER ON RECONSIDERATION
PS DOCKET NOS. 11-153 and 10-255**

Effective Date: October 29, 2013

On May 8, 2013, the Commission adopted a *Report and Order* in PS Docket Nos. 11-153 and 10-255¹ requiring all Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) providers and certain providers of interconnected text messaging services to provide an automatic “bounce-back” text message in situations where a consumer attempts to send a text message to 911 in a location where text-to-911 is not available.² The rule adopted by the *Report and Order*, codified at 47 C.F.R. §20.18(n), became effective on June 28, 2013 and required all covered providers to implement the bounce-back capability by September 30, 2013.³

On September 27, 2013, the Commission adopted an *Order on Reconsideration* amending the portion of the bounce-back rule applicable to CMRS providers when consumers are roaming, codified at 47 C.F.R. §20.18(n)(7).⁴ The *Order on Reconsideration* amended this portion of the rule to specify that when a consumer attempts to send a text to 911 while roaming on a CMRS network, the CMRS provider offering roaming service (host provider) satisfies its bounce-back obligation provided that it does not impede the consumer’s text to the consumer’s home network provider (home provider) or impede any bounce-back message generated by the home provider back to the consumer.⁵ The *Order on Reconsideration* waived application of Section 20.18(n)(7) and stated that the revised version of this

¹ In the Matter of Facilitating the Deployment of Text-to-911 and Other Next Generation 911 Applications, Framework for Next Generation 911 Deployment, PS Docket No. 11-153, PS Docket No. 10-255, *Report and Order*, FCC 13-64 (2013).

² The *Report and Order* defines “interconnected text messaging services” as those providers that enable a consumer to send text messages to all or substantially all text-capable U.S. telephone numbers and receive text messages from the same. *Id.* at para. 41.

³ Facilitating the Deployment of Text-to-911 and Other Next Generation 911 Applications, Final Rule, 78 FR 32169 (May 29, 2013).

⁴ In the Matter of Facilitating the Deployment of Text-to-911 and Other Next Generation 911 Applications, Framework for Next Generation 911 Deployment, PS Docket No. 11-153, PS Docket No. 10-255, *Order on Reconsideration*, FCC 13-127 (2013).

⁵ *Id.* at ¶ 9.

subsection would become effective upon publication of the order in the Federal Register.⁶ On October 29, 2013 the *Order on Reconsideration* was published in the Federal Register.⁷ Therefore, the effective date for the revised version of Section 20.18(n)(7) is October 29, 2013.⁸

For additional information, contact Timothy May, timothy.may@fcc.gov, of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Policy Division, at (202) 418-1463. Press inquiries should be directed to Rochelle Cohen, (202) 418-1162.

By the Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau.

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⁶ *Id.* at ¶ 14.

⁷ Next Generation 911, Text-to-911, Next Generation 911 Applications, 78 Fed. Reg. 64404 (Oct. 29, 2013).

⁸ *Id.*