



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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SPACE BUREAU ANNOUNCES FILING PROCEDURES FOR ADDING A POINT OF COMMUNICATION TO AN EARTH STATION LICENSE PURSUANT TO SECTION 25.118

EFFECTIVE DATE FOR NEW PROCEDURES IS SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

IB Docket Nos. 22-411 and 22-271

With this public notice, the Space Bureau's Earth Station Licensing Division announces earth station license filing procedures to implement new rules adopted in the *Expediting Initial Processing of Satellite and Earth Station Applications Second Report and Order*.¹ The procedures address: (1) how licensees should identify in their notices that they are filing to add a point of communication pursuant to section 25.118(g); (2) how current pending applicants to add a point of communication can utilize the procedures of section 25.118(g); and (3) the form and content of the weekly notice of all filed notices to add a point of communication.

Background. On August 7, 2025, the Commission adopted new rules to streamline the process for adding points of communication to an existing earth station license.² In addition, the Commission delegated authority to the Space Bureau to establish procedures for how pending applications to add a point of communication can take advantage of the new process.³ In addition, the Commission delegated authority to the Space Bureau to establish procedures to issue a weekly public notice listing notifications filed pursuant to section 25.118(g) and to determine what information to include and how and when to release such public notice.⁴ In this public notice, the Space Bureau takes the opportunity to outline the aforementioned procedures and to provide guidance on how licensees should file notices pursuant to section 25.118(g).

Filing a Notice Pursuant to Section 25.118(g). Section 25.118(g) of the Commission's rules requires that a licensee seeking to add satellite points of communication(s) without prior authorization must notify the FCC of their request to do so by filing an FCC Form 312 and Schedule B in the International Communications Filing System (ICFS) in accordance with the applicable provisions of part 1, subpart Y.⁵ This notice filing should clearly identify that the filing is being made pursuant to section 25.118(g) in the description of the application on Form 312.

Publication of Notices Filed Under Section 25.118(g). The Space Bureau's Earth Station Licensing Division will include, as part of the weekly "Earth Station Accepted for Filing Public Notice," a section that lists of notices filed pursuant to section 25.118(g). This section will include the date that

¹ *Expediting Initial Processing of Satellite and Earth Station Applications et al.*, IB Docket Nos. 22-411 and 22-271, Second Report and Order, FCC 25-48 (Aug. 8, 2025) (Second R&O).

² See Second R&O at paras. 7-12.

³ Second R&O at para. 11, n.31

⁴ Second R&O at para. 12, n.37.

⁵ 47 CFR § 25.118(g).

the notice was filed, the licensee that filed the notice, and the file number for the notice.

Treatment of Currently Pending Applications to Add a Point of Communication. Applicants with a currently pending application to add point(s) of communication may take advantage of the new procedures if their pending application meets the criteria of section 25.118(g).⁶ To do so, applicants should file a supplement in the file of the currently pending application and notify Commission staff in the Earth Station Licensing Division via email, at gregory.coutros@fcc.gov, that the applicant chooses to utilize the new rule provision and that a supplement has been filed for the purpose of having section 25.118(g) apply to the pending application. The supplement should clearly state that the pending application meets all of the requirements of section 25.118(g) and that the applicant chooses to utilize the new rule provision.⁷ Upon filing the supplement and notifying the Commission staff via email, the applicant will be permitted to operate pursuant to section 25.118(g), that is, the supplement will constitute a conditional authorization subject to the terms of the rule. The 15-day period for the Commission to notify the earth station operator that the added point of communication does not comply with the requirements of the rule will commence on the date the supplement is filed,⁸ and if the Commission does not issue such a notice, then the date the supplement was filed will serve as the date the license is modified in ICFS to add the point of communication.⁹

People with Disabilities. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice).

Additional Information. For additional information, contact Gregory Coutros, Gregory.Coutros@fcc.gov, Space Bureau, Earth Station Licensing Division, (202) 418-2351.

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⁶ “An earth station operator may add a point of communication without prior authorization, provided: (1) the operator has permission from the satellite operator to communicate with the satellite system; (2) the earth station operator does not re-point the earth station's antenna beyond any coordinated range; (3) adding a point of communication does not result in an increased risk of harmful interference; (4) adding the point of communication does not involve any change to authorized frequencies; and (5) the added point of communication is not a satellite that does not have U.S. market access.” See 47 CFR § 25.118(g).

⁷ Alternatively, licensees with pending applications may withdraw their applications and refile under the new rules. However, all applicable fees will have to be paid if the applicant chooses to refile.

⁸ See 47 CFR § 25.118(g) (describing how these procedures apply to new applications); see also Second R&O at para. 11, n.30.

⁹ See 47 CFR § 25.118(g). As stated in the rule, “[n]othing in this rule part prohibits the Commission from pursuing enforcement action after the lapse of the 15-day period for noncompliant operation, including noncompliant operation occurring during the period of conditional authorization.” *Id.*