

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Single Network Future: Supplemental Coverage) GN Docket No. 23-65
from Space)

ORDER

Adopted: April 22, 2026

Released: April 22, 2026

By the Chiefs, Office of Engineering and Technology and Space Bureau:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By this Order, the Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) and the Space Bureau waive on their own motion sections 2.805(a), 25.115(q)(1), 25.125(c), and 25.125(d)(3) of the Commission’s rules to permit customers using end user devices that have not yet been authorized for use under part 25 but that were otherwise authorized for use on or before June 29, 2024, to connect to Supplemental Coverage from Space (SCS) services.¹ Waiving these rules is in the public interest, as it will allow all subscribers on commercial mobile radio systems offering SCS service to access communications capability where they otherwise could not, including access to safety services such as 911.

II. BACKGROUND

2. In March 2024 the Commission adopted the *SCS Order* permitting SCS, which allows satellite operators collaborating with terrestrial service providers to operate space stations on certain licensed, flexible-use spectrum allocated to wireless services.² The *SCS Order* stated that “terrestrial device equipment authorization grantees” would be required to “modify existing, or obtain new, equipment authorizations for previously certified terrestrial devices to reflect those devices’ approval to operate under a part 25 [mobile satellite-service] allocation and applicable SCS rules.”³ The Commission noted multiple benefits stemming from this requirement, including providing consumers with a publicly available, authoritative database to determine whether their terrestrial device has SCS capability or could be provisioned for such operations; and providing tracking and accountability for devices capable of SCS, which could prove beneficial in the event that there are harmful interference incidents for which enforcement action may be needed.⁴ To minimize administrative burdens associated with modifying equipment certification for already certified end user devices, the Commission adopted a limited waiver of certain rules related to its permissive change requirements to permit device manufacturers to avail themselves of those procedures to add part 25 to existing equipment certifications.⁵ The Commission also

¹ 47 CFR §§ 2.805(a), 25.115(q)(1), 25.125(c), 25.125(d)(3).

² See *Single Network Future: Supplemental Coverage from Space*, GN Docket No. 23-65, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 39 FCC Rcd 2622, 2623, para. 3 (2024) (*SCS Order*).

³ *Id.* at 2718, para. 217.

⁴ *Id.* at 2718, para. 216.

⁵ *Id.* at 2719-20, para. 221. Specifically, the Commission waived the section 2.1043(c) requirement to file a new application for certification accompanied by all of the required information as specified in part 2 of our rules as well
(continued....)

noted that any updates to an existing equipment authorization to add part 25 for SCS must comply with the Commission's rules implementing the prohibition on authorization of communications equipment that has been determined to pose an unacceptable risk to the national security of the United States and the security and safety of United States persons, as identified on the Commission's Covered List (covered equipment)—published pursuant to the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019.⁶

3. In 2025, the Commission granted T-Mobile and SpaceX a waiver of these rules, noting that such action would provide consumers and first responders access to services, such as wireless emergency alerts and limited text messaging, during a natural disaster or when in remote areas that lack terrestrial service.⁷ In 2026, the Commission also granted a waiver of these rules to AST & Science, LLC for the same reasons.⁸ More recently, in its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in SB Docket 25-306 seeking to overhaul the rules for space and earth station licensing, the Commission tentatively concluded that the SCS equipment certification requirement is unnecessary and should be removed from the rules. The Commission tentatively concluded that “this requirement is unnecessary because all devices used for the provision of SCS must be certified under other rule parts and, the way the rule is structured, the certification under part 25 mirrors the certifications under other rule parts without requiring anything new.”⁹

III. DISCUSSION

4. We find good cause to justify temporarily waiving sections 2.805(a), 25.115(q)(1), 25.125(c), and 25.125(d)(3) of the Commission's rules on our own motion finding that strict application of the rules would frustrate the Commission's underlying purpose in adopting those rules, which is to enable consumers and first responders to access services, such as wireless emergency alerts and limited

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as the requirements in sections 2.911(c) and (e) to provide all test data in writing to a Telecommunications Certification Body. The Commission noted that because there would be no change to the devices, no new test data would be needed to add a part 25 allocation to an existing equipment certification for SCS. These waivers were granted for equipment certifications granted on or before the 60th day after publication of a summary of the *SCS Order* was published in the Federal Register. *Id.* at 2719, para. 222. The *SCS Order* was published on April 30, 2024, and the waiver expired six months after the effective date of that order. *See generally id.*; 89 FR 34148 (2024). Beyond that time, “grantees may still request a modification to their equipment authorization but they must do so by their own motion pursuant to the Commission's waiver request rules.” *SCS Order*, 39 FCC Rcd at 2720, para. 222.

⁶ *Id.* at 2718-19, para. 219. *See generally Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain through the Equipment Authorization Program; Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain through the Equipment Authorization Program*, ET Docket No. 21-232, EA Docket 21-233, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 37 FCC Rcd 13493, 13509-98, paras. 32-263 (2022).

⁷ *See T-Mobile USA, Inc. and Space Exploration Holdings, LLC Request for Waiver of Parts 2 and 25 of the Commission's Rules*, GN Docket Nos. 23-65 and 23-135, Order, 40 FCC Rcd 4321 (2025) (*T-Mobile/SpaceX Waiver*).

⁸ *See AST & Science, LLC Application to Launch and Operate a Non-geostationary Fixed-satellite and Mobile-satellite Service System et al.*, ICFS File Nos. SAT-LOA-20200413-00034; SAT-AMD-20200727-00088; SAT-AMD-20201028-00126; SAT-AMD-20230717-00172; SAT-AMD-20240311-00053; SAT-MOD-20250612-00145; SAT-AMD-20250718-00181; SAT-AMD-20250903-00248; SAT-MOD-20251205-00370; SAT-AMD-20251211-00379; SAT-MOD-20260121-00037, SB Docket No. 25-201, DA 26-391 (granted Apr. 21, 2026) (*AST SCS License*).

⁹ *See Space Modernization for the 21st Century*, SB Docket No. 25-306, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 25-69, 2025 WL 3677900, at *26, para. 77 (Oct. 29, 2025) (*Space Modernization NPRM*).

text messaging, during a natural disaster or when in remote areas that lack terrestrial service.¹⁰ Section 2.805(a) generally prohibits operation of an RF device prior to receiving equipment certification; sections 25.125(c), 25.125(d)(3), and 25.125(e) collectively require SCS earth stations (or end user devices in this case) to comply with all equipment authorization requirements; and section 25.115(q)(1) limits SCS communications only to associated earth stations that have been approved under the Commission's equipment certification requirements.¹¹ This waiver is for a period of one year from the release date or until a Commission decision on its proposal to remove the SCS equipment certification requirement takes effect, whichever comes first.

5. As noted in the *T-Mobile/SpaceX Waiver*, the rules collectively prevent service providers from offering SCS service to a subset of customers because equipment authorization holders for certain devices failed to update their equipment certifications.¹² We are concerned that as additional SCS providers attempt to develop and expand their service offerings, they could face the same rule impediment.¹³ We thus grant this temporary waiver on our own motion to ensure that carriers that offer SCS service have the means to smoothly roll-out SCS service so that the public can take full advantage of its benefits while the Commission resolves the issues teed up in the *Space Modernization NPRM*. Granting a temporary waiver also serves the public interest as it would allow commercial network subscribers to access communications capabilities where they otherwise could not, including enabling the ability to access safety services when out of range of a terrestrial base station. Finally, consistent with our finding in the *T-Mobile/SpaceX Waiver*, permitting devices already certified for parts 22, 24, or 27 to access SCS would not increase the potential for causing harmful interference to any service.¹⁴

6. Finally, the Commission explicitly noted in the *SCS Order* that devices operating in the SCS service must comply with the Commission's rules implementing the prohibition on authorization of communications equipment identified on the Commission's Covered List and that our existing administrative process associated with either amending an existing equipment authorization or obtaining a new authorization ensures that expanded operating privileges are not extended to covered equipment.¹⁵ Thus, although we grant this temporary waiver, we also limit the extent to only such devices that otherwise would not be covered equipment. That is, this waiver is not a vehicle for circumventing any rules barring covered equipment from obtaining equipment authorization.¹⁶

¹⁰ 47 CFR §§ 2.805(a), 25.115(q)(1), 25.125(c), 25.125(d)(3).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *T-Mobile/SpaceX Waiver*, 40 FCC Rcd at 4322, para. 5.

¹³ Entities in addition to T-Mobile and SpaceX are providing or seeking to provide commercial SCS. See *AST SCS License; Lynk Global, Inc.*, ICFS File No. SAT-MOD-20241209-00276 (granted Apr. 29, 2025).

¹⁴ *T-Mobile/SpaceX Waiver* at 4323, para. 6 (reiterating that the "Commission's equipment authorization rules help to ensure that RF devices meet the Commission's technical rules and thus operate with minimal potential for causing harmful interference" but stating that "[f]or SCS, the Commission recognized that, because handsets would not have to be modified to use the service, additional technical testing would not be necessary. Thus, permitting handsets already certified for parts 22, 24, or 27 to access SCS would not increase the potential for causing harmful interference to any service").

¹⁵ *SCS Order*, 39 FCC Rcd at 2718, para. 219.

¹⁶ See 47 CFR § 2.903; List of Equipment and Services Covered by Section 2 of the Secure Networks Act, <https://www.fcc.gov/supplychain/coveredlist>. As part of the administrative update established by the SCS rules, equipment certification applicants are required to provide an attestation that the subject device is not "covered" equipment (47 CFR § 2.911(d)(5)) and also to update the administrative information, if necessary, with information regarding subsidiaries and affiliates (47 CFR § 2.903) and provide a U.S. based agent for service of process (47 CFR § 2.911(d)(7)).

IV. ORDERING CLAUSE

7. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to sections 4(i) and 303 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 303, and sections 0.241(b), 0.261(a), and 1.3 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.241(b), 0.261(a), 1.3, that the waiver, on our own motion, of sections 2.805(a), 25.125(c), 25.125(d)(3), and 25.115(q)(1) of the Commission's rules is GRANTED with the limitations discussed herein for a period of one year from the date of release of this Order or until any Commission decision in SB Docket 25-306 on the disposition of these rules becomes effective, whichever comes first.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Andrew Hendrickson
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