

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

In the Matter of )
Verizon Communications Inc. )
Petition for Expedited Waiver of Sections ) ET Docket No. 21-232
2.932(b) and 2.1043(b) of the Commission's )
Rules to Permit Targeted Class I and Class II )
Permissive Hardware Changes to Covered )
Routers )

ORDER

Adopted: June 26, 2026

Released: June 26, 2026

By the Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By this Order we grant the request of Verizon Communications Inc. (Verizon) for a waiver of Sections 2.932(b) and 2.1043(b) of the Commission's rules to permit its suppliers to make necessary Class I and Class II permissive hardware changes to consumer-grade routers with existing equipment authorizations that are produced in foreign countries and are now on the Covered List, for a period of one year. We find that grant of the waiver will serve the public interest by preventing abrupt disruptions that would impair the supply of broadband equipment to American consumers.

II. BACKGROUND

2. On October 28, 2025, the Commission adopted revisions to its rules at 47 CFR §§ 2.932(b) and 2.1043(b), which went into effect in December 2025. These revisions exclude "equipment prohibited from authorization pursuant to § 2.903," i.e., equipment on the Covered List, from the equipment certification procedures allowing for Class I permissive changes to authorized equipment.

3. On March 23, 2026, the FCC added to the Covered List "Routers produced in a foreign country, except routers which have been granted a Conditional Approval by DoW or DHS" (Covered Routers). Applying 47 CFR §§ 2.932(b) and 2.1043(b) to Covered Routers had the effect of prohibiting

1 Verizon Communications Inc., Petition for Expedited Waiver of Sections 2.932(b) and 2.1043(b) of the Commission's Rules to Permit Targeted Class I and Class II Permissive Hardware Changes to Covered Routers, ET Docket No. 21-232 (filed June 11, 2026) (Verizon Waiver Request).

2 In the Matter of Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain through the Equipment Authorization Program, ET Docket No. 21-232, Second Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, ¶ 55 (rel. Oct. 29, 2025), 90 Fed. Reg. 53227 (Nov. 25, 2025) (rules effective Dec. 26, 2025).

3 47 CFR §§ 2.932(b) & 2.1043(b).

4 Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Announces Addition of Routers Produced in Foreign Countries to FCC Covered List, WC Docket No. 18-89, Public Notice, DA 26-278 (Mar. 23, 2026) (Routers Public Notice). For the current version of the Covered List and Conditional Approvals, see Federal Communications Commission, List of Equipment and Services Covered By Section 2 of The Secure Networks Act, https://www.fcc.gov/supplychain/coveredlist. The term "Routers" is defined by National Institute of Standards and

(continued...)

all permissive changes, even software and firmware security updates that would otherwise mitigate harm to U.S. consumers. As a result, OET announced a waiver of those prohibitions, permitting Covered Routers to continue to receive software and firmware Class I permissive changes that mitigate harm to U.S. consumers until January 1, 2027.<sup>5</sup> On May 8, 2026, OET extended that waiver through January 1, 2029, and expanded it to include software and firmware Class II permissive changes that mitigate harm to U.S. consumers.<sup>6</sup> Hardware or other permissive changes to Covered Routers are not included in these waivers and are still prohibited under the Commission's rules.

4. On May 15, 2026, the Commission granted an Expedited Petition for Waiver filed by AT&T Services Inc., allowing AT&T to make necessary hardware Class I and Class II permissive changes to consumer-grade routers, which are now on the Covered List, through May 15, 2027.<sup>7</sup> On June 9, 2026, the Commission partially granted a similar waiver filed by NCTA - The Internet & Television Association for a period of one year and fully granted a similar waiver filed by Sercomm Corporation for a period of one year.<sup>8</sup>

5. On June 11, 2026, Verizon filed a request for waiver of Sections 2.932(b) and 2.1043(b) of the Commission's rules to permit its suppliers to make necessary Class I and Class II permissive hardware changes to consumer-grade routers to modify or replace end-of-life components, including diodes, crystals, and inductors, as well as memory components and substrates affected by supply chain shortages.<sup>9</sup> Verizon indicated these changes would otherwise comply with the Class I and Class II permissive change requirements in Section 2.1043, and that the memory-related hardware changes, substrate changes, and end-of-life component changes (i) will not improve performance or capability or alter the functionality of the previously-authorized device; (ii) will not be used to market the device as a distinct model; and (iii) will not involve swapping a U.S.-produced component for a foreign-produced component.<sup>10</sup>

### III. DISCUSSION

6. We are authorized to grant a waiver under Section 1.3 of the Commission's rules if the petitioner demonstrates good cause for such action.<sup>11</sup> Good cause, in turn, may be found and a waiver

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Technology Internal Report 8425A to include consumer-grade networking devices that are primarily intended for residential use and can be installed by the customer. Routers forward data packets, most commonly Internet Protocol (IP) packets, between networked systems.

<sup>5</sup> Office of Engineering and Technology Announces Waiver of Prohibitions on Certain Class I Permissive Changes to Covered Routers, *Public Notice*, DA 26-286 (Mar. 23, 2026).

<sup>6</sup> Office of Engineering and Technology Announces Extension and Expansion of Waiver of Prohibitions on Software and Firmware Permissive Changes to Certain Covered UAS, UAS Critical Components and Routers, *Public Notice*, DA 26-454 (May 8, 2026).

<sup>7</sup> *In the Matter of AT&T Services Petition for an Expedited Waiver of Sections 2.932(b) and 2.1043(b) of the Commission's Rules to Permit Targeted Class I and Class II Permissive Hardware Changes to Covered Routers*, ET Docket No. 21-232, Order, DA 26-491 (rel. May 15, 2026) (AT&T Waiver Order).

<sup>8</sup> *In the Matter of NCTA - The Internet & Television Association Petition for Expedited Waiver to Permit Targeted Class I and Class II Permissive Hardware Changes to Covered Routers*, ET Docket No. 21-232, Order, DA 26-571 (rel. June 9, 2026) (NCTA Waiver Order); *In the Matter of Sercomm Corporation; Petition for Expedited Waiver of Sections 2.932(b) and 2.1043(b) of the Commission's Rules to Permit Targeted Class I and Class II Permissive Hardware Changes to Covered Routers*, ET Docket No. 21-232, Order, DA 26-572 (rel. June 9, 2026) (Sercomm Waiver Order).

<sup>9</sup> Verizon Waiver Request at 8.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> 47 CFR § 1.3. See also *ICO Global Communications (Holdings) Limited v. FCC*, 428 F.3d 264 (D.C. Cir. 2005); *Northeast Cellular Telephone Co. v. FCC*, 897 F.2d 1164 (D.C. Cir. 1990); *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153 (D.C. Cir. 1969).

granted “where particular facts would make strict compliance inconsistent with the public interest.”<sup>12</sup> To make this public interest determination, the waiver cannot undermine the purposes of the rule, and there must be a stronger public interest benefit in granting the waiver than in applying the rule.<sup>13</sup>

7. We find that granting Verizon’s waiver request for its suppliers meets the waiver standard because of the specific facts therein. These include unavoidable supply-chain shortages requiring Class I and Class II permissive memory-related hardware changes, substrate changes, and end-of-life component changes to consumer-grade routers, which, if not addressed, could cause meaningful disruptions in the availability of broadband equipment.<sup>14</sup> Moreover, this waiver does not undermine the national security and public safety purpose of the rule, given that, among other facts, the hardware changes will not improve performance or capability or alter the functionality of the previously-authorized device; will not be used to market the device as a distinct model; and will not involve swapping a U.S.-produced component for a foreign-produced component.<sup>15</sup>

8. We therefore grant Verizon’s waiver request for a period of one year, until June 26, 2027, for the limited purpose of its suppliers making Class I and Class II permissive memory-related hardware changes, substrate changes, and end-of-life component changes to consumer-grade routers with existing equipment authorizations that are produced in foreign countries and are now on the Covered List, so long as they are otherwise consistent with the regulations in 47 CFR § 2.1043. The prohibitions in 47 CFR §§ 2.932(b) and 2.1043(b) remain in effect for all other hardware modifications to covered equipment.

#### IV. ORDERING CLAUSES

9. Accordingly, pursuant to authority delegated in Sections 0.31, 0.241, and 1.3 of the Commission's rules (47 CFR §§ 0.31, 0.241, and 1.3) and Sections 4(i), 302, 303(e), and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 302a, 303(e), and 303(r)), IT IS ORDERED that the Request for Waiver filed by Verizon on June 11, 2026 IS GRANTED consistent with the terms of this Order. This action is effective upon release of this Order.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Andrew Hendrickson  
Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology

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<sup>12</sup> *Northeast Cellular*, 897 F.2d at 1166; *see also ICO Global Communications*, 428 F.3d at 269 (quoting *Northeast Cellular*); *WAIT Radio*, 418 F.2d at 1157-59.

<sup>13</sup> *See, e.g., WAIT Radio*, 418 F.2d at 1157 (stating that even though the overall objectives of a general rule have been adjudged to be in the public interest, it is possible that application of the rule to a specific case may not serve the public interest if an applicant's proposal does not undermine the public interest policy served by the rule); *Northeast Cellular*, 897 F.2d at 1166 (stating that in granting a waiver, an agency must explain why deviation from the general rule better serves the public interest than would strict adherence to the rule).

<sup>14</sup> Verizon Waiver Request at 6-7.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.* at 8.