

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

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
WNC Corporation	)	
	)	
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: September 15, 2026

Released: September 15, 2026

By the Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By this Order we grant the request of WNC Corporation (WNC) for a waiver of Sections 2.932(b) and 2.1043(b) of the Commission's rules to permit it 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,¹ for a period of one year. We find that granting the waiver will serve the public interest by preventing significant disruptions to broadband service for U.S. 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 2025.² 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 permissive changes to authorized equipment.³

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).⁴ Applying 47 CFR §§ 2.932(b) and 2.1043(b) to Covered Routers had the effect of prohibiting

¹ WNC 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 (filed July 2, 2026) (WNC 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, 40 FCC Rcd 8430, 8458, para 55 (2025). The rules became effective on Dec. 26, 2025. See 90 Fed. Reg. 53227.

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, Public Notice, DA 26-278 (PSHSB 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, 2027.⁵ 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.⁶ 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, 2027.⁷ 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.⁸ On June 26, 2026, the Commission granted a similar waiver filed by Verizon Communications Inc. for a period of one year and a similar waiver filed by Arcadyan Technology Corporation for a period of one year.⁹

5. On July 2, 2026, WNC filed a request for waiver of Sections 2.932(b) and 2.1043(b) of the Commission's rules to allow it to make necessary Class I and Class II permissive hardware changes to consumer-grade routers to substitute substrate materials and memory components due to unavoidable supply-chain shortages, and end-of-life components, including diodes, crystals, inductors, and an FCC-certified internal cellular module in those routers.¹⁰ WNC indicated these changes would otherwise comply with the Class I and Class II permissive change requirements in Section 2.1043, and that the requested 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.¹¹

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.

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

⁶ *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 (OET May 8, 2026).

⁷ *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 (OET May 15, 2026) (AT&T Waiver Order).

⁸ *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 (OET 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 (OET June 9, 2026) (Sercomm Waiver Order).

⁹ *In the Matter of 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, Order, DA 26-641 (OET June 26, 2026) (Verizon Waiver Order); *In the Matter of Arcadyan Technology 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 26-642 (OET June 26, 2026) (Arcadyan Waiver Order).

¹⁰ WNC Waiver Request at 1, 10.

¹¹ *Id.* at 12.

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.¹² Good cause, in turn, may be found and a waiver granted “where particular facts would make strict compliance inconsistent with the public interest.”¹³ 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.¹⁴

7. We find that granting WNC’s waiver request meets the waiver standard because of the specific facts therein. These include unavoidable supply-chain shortages requiring Class I and Class II permissive hardware changes to consumer-grade routers, which, if not addressed, could cause significant disruptions in the availability of broadband for U.S. consumers.¹⁵ 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.¹⁶

8. We therefore grant WNC’s waiver request for a period of one year, until **September 16, 2027**, for the limited purpose of allowing it to make Class I and Class II permissive hardware changes to substitute substrate materials; substitute memory components; and substitute end-of-life components, including diodes, crystals, inductors, and an FCC-certified internal cellular module 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.

¹² 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).

¹³ *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.

¹⁴ 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).

¹⁵ WNC Waiver Request at 12.

¹⁶ *Id.*

IV. ORDERING CLAUSES

9. Accordingly, pursuant to 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 WNC on July 2, 2026 IS GRANTED consistent with the terms of this Order. This action is effective upon release of this Order.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Andrew C. Hendrickson
Chief,
Office of Engineering and Technology