



NEWS

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See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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FCC AFFIRMS RULES TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPLOYMENT OF ULTRA-WIDEBAND TECHNOLOGY

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) adopted a *Memorandum Opinion and Order* that largely reaffirmed the procedures adopted last year to authorize the unlicensed operations of ultra-wideband (“UWB”) devices. Minor changes were implemented to further facilitate the operation of imaging devices. These rule amendments respond to fourteen petitions for reconsideration that were filed in response to the First Report and Order that established the UWB standards.

On February 14, 2002, the Commission established regulations that permitted the marketing and operation of certain types of new products incorporating ultra-wideband UWB technology. UWB technology can be employed for a vast array of new applications that have the potential to provide significant benefits for public safety, businesses and consumers. Recent advances in UWB technology have resulted in its potential use for a variety of applications such as radar imaging of objects buried under the ground or behind walls and short-range, high-speed data transmissions.

In general, the Commission did not make any significant changes to the existing UWB technical parameters, indicating that it is reluctant to do so until it has gained more experience with UWB devices. The Commission also indicated that any major changes to the rules for existing UWB product categories at this early stage would be disruptive to current industry product development efforts. Rather, it reviewed the requests from the petitioners and granted those that will not increase the interference potential of UWB devices. The Commission denied those requests that sought further restrictions on UWB operations.

The Commission expressed its belief that the next 12 to 18 months should allow the introduction of UWB devices under the recently adopted rules. The Commission indicated that it also intends to investigate the potential impact of UWB devices on various radio services and would continue its review of the UWB standards to determine where additional changes warrant consideration.

In response to the petitions, the Commission amended the rules to facilitate the operation of through-wall imaging systems by law enforcement, emergency rescue and firefighter personnel in emergency situations; eliminated the requirement that GPRs and wall imaging systems operate with their -10 dB bandwidths below 960 MHz or above 3.1 GHz; specified the

limitations on who may operate ground penetrating radar (GPR) systems and wall imaging systems and for what purposes; eliminated the requirement for non-hand held GPRs to employ a dead man switch; clarified the coordination requirements for imaging devices; and clarified the rules regarding emissions produced by digital circuitry used by UWB transmitters.

The Commission also proposed additional new rules to address issues raised regarding the operation of low pulse repetition frequency (PRF) UWB systems, including vehicular radars, in the 3.1-10.6 GHz band; the operation of frequency hopping vehicular radars in the 22-29 GHz band as UWB devices; the establishment of new peak power limits for wideband Part 15 devices that do not operate as UWB devices; and the definition of a UWB device.

In a separate, but related action, the Commission denied an *Application for Review* of Certification of a Time Domain Corporation UWB Transmitter requested by a coalition of companies and associations. The Time Domain device is a transmit-only radio to be used by UWB application developers to evaluate UWB propagation and co-existence with other RF devices. The Commission found that the transmitter complies with all of the limits in the Commission's rules

Action by the Commission February 12, 2003, by *Memorandum Opinion and Order* and *Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making* in ET 98-153 (FCC 03-33). Chairman Powell, Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin, and Adelstein. Chairman Powell and Commissioner Copps issuing statements.

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