



NEWS

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

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FCC AMENDS RULES TO PERMIT NEW WIDEBAND UNLICENSED DEVICES AND AFFIRMS RULES TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPLOYMENT OF ULTRA-WIDEBAND TECHNOLOGY

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) adopted a *Second Report and Order and Second Memorandum Opinion and Order* in ET Docket No. 98-153 that will further facilitate the introduction of new unlicensed wideband devices in the 6 GHz, 17 GHz and 24 GHz bands. These devices will include radar systems to improve automotive safety and tracking systems for personnel location, such as hospital patients and emergency rescue crews, as well as for functions such as inventory control.

The Commission previously established regulations that permit 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. Partly in response to petitions for reconsideration of the *First Report and Order* in this proceeding, the Commission, proposed further changes to the Part 15 regulations for wideband devices.

In today's 2nd *Report and Order*, the Commission amended its rules for general Part 15 unlicensed operations that use wide bandwidths but are not classified as UWB devices under its rules. It increased the peak power limits and reduced the unwanted emission levels for 3 frequency bands that were already available for unlicensed operation: 5925-7250 MHz, 16.2-17.2 GHz, and 23.12-29 GHz, and indicated that higher peak power limits in these bands would facilitate wideband operations such as short range communications, collision avoidance, inventory control and tracking systems. The Commission also amended its measurement procedures to permit frequency hopped, swept frequency, and gated systems operating within these bands to be measured in their normal operating mode.

In light of these changes to the general Part 15 provisions, the Commission did not make any major changes to the current UWB technical requirements, indicating that changes to these rules at this early stage could be disruptive to current industry product development efforts. The Commission made only a minor change to the measurement procedure applied to gated UWB vehicular radar systems.

In the 2nd *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, the Commission dismissed the Petition for Reconsideration filed by the Satellite Industry Association, stating that it would continue to monitor the situation in the 4 GHz band, and denied the Petition for Reconsideration filed by Cingular, Inc. It reaffirmed the decisions regarding UWB adopted in the *First Report and Order* in this proceeding.

Action by the Commission December 15, 2004, by *Second Report and Order and Second Memorandum Opinion and Order* in ET 98-153 (FCC 04-285). Chairman Powell, Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin and Adelstein.

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ET Docket No. 98-153