



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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## **FCC ADOPTS NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING INITIATING COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF LICENSING AND OPERATING RULES FOR SATELLITE SERVICES**

Washington, D.C. – For the first time since 1996, the Federal Communications Commission today initiated a wholesale review of its rules, also known as Part 25, governing licensing and operation of space stations and earth stations, which transmit radio frequency signals between the ground and satellites. The action continues the FCC’s efforts to update and streamline regulatory requirements across the agency.

This Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) would eliminate unnecessary technical and information filing requirements, update rules to better accommodate evolving technology, and simplify existing requirements. In proposing extensive changes to over 100 rule sections and subsections in Part 25, the Commission aims to give satellite licensees the flexibility to provide innovative services while ensuring an operating environment free from harmful interference.

The NPRM includes proposals that would:

- Shift from a “tell us how you built it” approach to a “tell us how you avoid interference with your neighbors” approach;
- Eliminate filing requirements that are no longer needed;
- Increase the number of earth station applications eligible for routine and streamlined processing;
- Amend the information requirements for space and earth station applications to reflect evolving technology;
- Provide greater flexibility to earth station applicants in verifying antenna performance;
- Reinforce emergency contact reporting requirements while consolidating requirements for annual reporting and removing unnecessary reporting rules; and
- Consolidate, clarify, and request comment on milestone requirements for space stations.

In a companion Report and Order adopted on Monday, the Commission made several non-substantive changes to Part 25. See *2006 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Revision of Part 25*, IB Docket No. 06-154, Report and Order, FCC 12-116 (rel. Sept. 28, 2012) (*Housekeeping Order*). The clarifying rule changes adopted in the *Housekeeping Order* will facilitate preparation of license applications for earth stations and space stations and promote compliance with the Commission’s operating rules.

Together, both items will unleash more rapid deployment of innovative services to the public and foster greater investment by removing unnecessary regulations and easing administrative burdens for applicants, licensees, and the Commission.

Comments on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking are due 45 days after publication in the Federal Register; reply comments are due 30 days thereafter.

Action by the Commission September 28, 2012, by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 12-117). Chairman Genachowski, Commissioners McDowell, Clyburn, Rosenworcel and Pai. Separate statements issued by Chairman Genachowski, Commissioners McDowell, Clyburn, Rosenworcel and Pai.

IB Docket No. 12-267

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