



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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FCC EXPANDS LICENSE ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN WIRELESS MICROPHONE USERS TO ENSURE INTERFERENCE PROTECTION, HIGH QUALITY SOUND FOR LARGE EVENTS

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission today took steps to recognize the important social, cultural, and economic benefits of low power auxiliary station operations, including wireless microphones, by expanding license eligibility for qualifying users.

In new rules adopted today, the Commission expands Part 74 license eligibility to include professional sound companies and venues that routinely use 50 or more wireless microphones, where the use of wireless microphones is an integral part of the major productions or events they host. The Commission concluded that these users generally have the same need for interference protection as existing Part 74 licensees and the sophisticated knowledge and capability to manage use and coordination of a large number of wireless microphones.

Wireless microphone users that do not routinely use 50 or more devices may continue to operate as they do today, on an unlicensed basis. The measured approach taken today strikes an appropriate balance in providing the benefits of a license for entities and events that have a demonstrated need, while ensuring that spectrum is shared effectively with existing Part 74 operations and remains available for other uses, including TV white space devices.

The actions the Commission takes today are part of the broader efforts to address the needs of wireless microphone users in connection with the Incentive Auction Report and Order adopted today. The Commission will continue to examine these important issues in related proceedings this summer.

Action by the Commission May 15, 2014, by Report and Order (FCC 14-62). Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners Clyburn, Rosenworcel, Pai and O’Rielly.

WT Docket No. 08-166, WT Docket No. 08-167, and ET Docket No. 10-24

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