



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

April 16, 1991

News media information 202/632-5050. Recorded listing of releases and texts 202/632-0002.

The FAA and FCC Agree to Simplify Procedures for Certain EMI Cases

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The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) have reached an agreement to simplify the handling of electromagnetic interference (EMI) issues with respect to AM broadcast stations, fixed microwave transmitters, and cellular radiotelephone fixed transmitters. The FAA's concern in this area arises from the possibility that such transmitters might be installed too close to remotely controlled aeronautical receivers so as to disrupt air traffic control communications and navigational aids.

It has been agreed that the FAA will not issue a hazard determination to those applicants for licenses involving cellular fixed transmitters, fixed microwave transmitters, or AM broadcast transmitters that invite potential EMI, nor, will the FAA request the applicants to use filtering beyond what is normally required by FCC rules. Rather, the FAA will include the following language in a Determination of Non Hazard, assuming that physical obstruction is not an issue.

FAA facilities critical to aviation safety are located (distance) from your proposed transmitter site. You may cause harmful interference to these facilities if your equipment meets only minimal FCC standards for spurious emissions. Before you begin any transmission from your facility, contact (name and phone number of local FAA contact) to arrange procedures to verify that no interference is caused.

FCC requirements in:

- 47 C.F.R. 73.44(c) (in the case of AM broadcast stations)
- 47 C.F.R. 22.107(c) (in the case of fixed cellular transmitters)
- 47 C.F.R. 21.107(b) (in the case of common carrier fixed microwave transmitters)
- 47 C.F.R. 74.23(a) (in the case of broadcast auxiliary transmitters)
- 47 C.F.R. 94.71(d) (in the case of operational fixed service transmitters)

indicate that licensees may need to employ extra filtering or take other measures if their transmissions disrupt other services. The Commission requires its licensees to cooperate fully with users in other services, in this case the FAA, to eliminate any harmful interference covered by the above requirements.

This agreement does not affect the requirement of an FCC applicant to notify the FAA of proposed construction or modification of towers under existing FAA and FCC Rules. Facilities located near airports raise concerns about possible interference to aircraft and will be handled under existing procedures.

This agreement should speed the authorization of service for licensees in the above categories. Both agencies agree that this special case of potential interference to ground based receivers from transmitters at widely differing frequencies can be adequately handled by requiring the licensee (applicant) to take whatever steps are necessary to correct any EMI effects immediately.

For further information about this topic, contact: FCC - Michael Marcus (202) 634-1550 or FAA - George Sakai (202) 267-9710.