

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 1, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Mr. W.D. Rabe, Commandant (G-MMI), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001, or may be made by telephone at (202) 267-1430, or by fax at (202) 267-1416.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. W.D. Rabe, Marine Investigation Division, Office of Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection, telephone, (202) 267-1430.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Comments

The Coast Guard encourages interested persons to participate in this process by submitting written data, views, or arguments, or verbal comments. Persons submitting comments should include their names and addresses, identify this notice (CGD 95-023) and the specific question to which each comment applies, and give the reason for each comment. Please submit two copies of all written comments and attachments in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing.

Drafting Information

The principal persons involved in drafting the document are Mr. W.D. Rabe, Project Manager, and Commander P.A. Popko, Assistant Division Chief, Merchant Vessel Inspection and Documentation Division, Office of Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection.

Background and Purpose

The marine casualty investigation process is the main feedback loop for Coast Guard prevention programs. This measurement function has never been more important as limited resources must be focused on those activities which will be most effective in minimizing the risks to personnel and the environment.

Under the authority of 46 U.S.C. Chapter 63, the Coast Guard conducts marine casualty investigations. Section 6301 of Title 46, U.S. Code, requires the Secretary to issue regulations for the investigation of marine casualties. This authority has been delegated to the Coast Guard which has promulgated regulations and procedures for the reporting and investigation of marine casualties. These regulations appear in 46 CFR parts 4 and 5. Under current law and regulations, the marine industry has a duty to report marine casualties, as defined in law and regulations, to the

Coast Guard. There is more confusion regarding which casualties must be reported and a general concern that there is little benefit in reporting and investigation many of the "minor" casualties.

The Chief, Office of Marine Safety, Security, and Environmental Protection has established a Quality Action Team (QAT) to review the investigation process. The QAT will examine the process and recommend improvements. It will consider public comment during its review. The review will address collection and analysis of casualty data, casualty reporting requirements, casualty investigation procedures, investigator training and qualification requirements, and the use of investigations for Suspension and Revocation proceedings, civil penalty assessments, and potential criminal prosecutions.

The QAT specifically solicits responses to the following questions:

1. What changes would you recommend to the reporting requirements for marine casualties in 46 CFR part 4?
2. How could the reporting criteria be improved to help eliminate confusion concerning which incidents are reportable to the Coast Guard?
3. How could the Coast Guard satisfy its need for data collection on marine casualties while reducing some of the burden on industry to report casualties?
4. Would electronic or batch reporting of minor casualties be beneficial?
5. What would be the pros and cons of limiting Coast Guard activity on certain casualties to data collection while reserving in depth investigation to those casualties from which important lessons can be learned?
6. What would be the pros and cons of the Coast Guard not investigating those cases which the National Transportation Safety Board is investigating to reduce duplication of effort?

The QAT will consult with the marine industry to obtain insight on where investigation processes can be improved to benefit both the Coast Guard and industry. Small study groups may be formed, if appropriate, and public meetings may be held to get input from a broad interest base. If the Coast Guard decides to hold public meetings, the dates, times, and locations will be announced by a later notice in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 15, 1995.

Joseph J. Angelo,

Acting Chief, Office of Marine Safety Security and Environmental Protection.

[FR Doc. 95-6950 Filed 3-21-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-14-M

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Parts 2 and 15

[ET Docket No. 95-19; FCC 95-46]

Streamlining the Equipment Authorization Procedures for Digital Devices

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This proposal would streamline the equipment authorization requirements for personal computers and personal computer peripherals by relaxing the equipment authorization from certification to a new type of authorization based on a manufacturer's or supplier's declaration of compliance. It would also permit authorization of individual components of personal computers and would require testing laboratories to be accredited by the National Institute of Standards and technology under its National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program. These changes would allow manufacturers and suppliers to market new equipment without having to submit an application for equipment authorization and await FCC approval. This would save industry approximately \$250 million annually and would stimulate the creation of jobs and competition in the computer industry by relaxing regulations that are particularly burdensome for small businesses.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before June 5, 1995, and reply comments on or before July 5, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John A. Reed, Office of Engineering and Technology, (202) 776-1627.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making in ET Docket No. 95-19, adopted February 7, 1995, and released February 7, 1995. The complete text of this Notice of Proposed Rule Making is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW., Washington,

DC, and also may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Services, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 2100 M Street, NW, Suite 140, Washington, DC 20037.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION: The following collection of information contained in this proposed rule has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for review under Section 3504(h) of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3504(h)). Copies of this submission may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Services, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 2100 M Street, NW., Suite 140, Washington, DC 20037. Persons wishing to comment on this collection of information should direct their comments to Timothy Fain, (202) 395-3561, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102 (NEOB), Washington, DC 20503. A copy of any comments filed with the Office of Management and Budget should also be sent to the following address at the Commission: Federal Communications Commission, Office of Managing Director, Paperwork Reduction Project, Washington, DC 20554. For further information contact Judy Boley, Federal Communications Commission, (202) 418-0210.

OMB Number: None.

Title: Equipment Authorization—Declaration of Compliance, Amendment of Parts 2 and 15.

Form: None.

Action: Proposed new collection.

Respondents: Businesses or other for profit.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Annual Response: 4000 respondents, 19 hours per response.

Needs and Uses: Data collection will be used to investigate complaints of harmful interference to radio communications and to verify manufacturer's or supplier's compliance with the rules. The information collected is essential to controlling potential interference to radio communications.

Summary of the Notice of Proposed Rule Making:

1. In the Notice of Proposed Rule Making, the Commission proposes to amend parts 2 and 15 of its rules regarding the equipment authorization and testing requirements for personal computers, personal computer peripherals and individual components of personal computers.

2. Personal computers and personal computer peripheral devices are currently subject to authorization under our certification procedure to ensure that they do not cause interference to radio services such as TV broadcasting,

aeronautical and maritime communications, amateur services, etc. We propose to relax the equipment authorization procedure for personal computers and peripherals from certification to a process based on a manufacturer's or supplier's Declaration of Conformity (DoC). The DoC is similar to the current verification procedure where testing is required to ensure compliance with the standards. The DoC would be packaged with the equipment and would include the following information: (1) Identification of the specific product covered by the declaration; (2) a statement that the product complies with part 15 of the FCC rules; (3) identification of the compliance test report by date and number; and, (4) identification by name, address and telephone number of the manufacturer, importer or other party located within the U.S. that is responsible for ensuring compliance with the rules. Marketing and importation could begin immediately following satisfactory testing and completion of the DoC.

3. In order to provide an additional safeguard that personal computers and peripherals continue to comply with the technical standards, we propose to require laboratories that perform measurements on these products to obtain accreditation by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) under its National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP). NIST would review the qualifications of the testing personnel, quality control procedures, record keeping and reporting, etc. and send recognized experts to observe the testing. Laboratory accreditation is generally required, either implicitly or explicitly, under most foreign government approval systems.

4. We also propose to permit modular personal computers to be authorized based on tests and DoCs of the individual components, *i.e.*, enclosures, power supplies and mother boards, without further testing of the completed assembly. Currently, personal computers must be tested and authorized based on the specific combination of CPU board, power supply and enclosure used in their fabrication. Every time this configuration is changed, separate testing and authorization is required. Many computers are now assembled from modular components. Thus, this proposal will enable a small manufacturer or retailer to legally assemble computers and will also ensure that components used in the assembly result in a computer that complies with the standards. Comments

are invited on specific test procedures and standards that should be applied to mother boards, power supplies and enclosures.

Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

5. As required by section 603 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Commission has prepared an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IFRA) of the expected impact on small entities of the proposals suggested in this document. Written public comments are requested on the IRFA. These comments must be filed in accordance with the same filing deadlines as comments on the rest of the Notice, but they must have a separate and distinct heading designating them as responses to the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis. The Secretary shall send a copy of this Notice of Proposed Rule Making, including the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration in accordance with paragraph 603(a) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. Pub. L. No. 96-354, 94 Stat. 1164, 5 U.S.C. section 601 *et seq.* (1981).

Reason for action: This rule making proceeding is initiated to obtain comments regarding whether and how the Commission should regulate computers, peripheral devices to computers and subassemblies to computers.

Objectives: The Commission seeks to determine the standards, test procedures, and equipment authorization requirements that should be applied to computers as well as to CPU boards, power supplies, and enclosures used in personal computers in order: (1) To reduce regulatory burdens on computer manufacturers; (2) to remove impediments to flexible system design and construction techniques for computer; and (3) to reduce the potential for interference to radio services by improving our ability to ensure that personal computers comply with our standards.

Legal Basis: The proposed action is authorized under sections 4(i), 301, 302, 303(e), 303(f), 303(r), 304 and 307 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. sections 154(i), 301, 302, 303(f), 303(r), 304 and 307.

Reporting, Recordkeeping and Other Compliance Requirements: CPU boards, power supplies, and enclosures designed for use in computers are proposed to be included under our standards and equipment authorization requirements. These components, which were not previously subject to our rules, will be included under an equipment authorization procedure similar to our

verification procedure with the addition of a Declaration of Conformity that would be included with each product marketed. In addition, we propose to permit any party to assemble computers from authorized CPU boards, power supplies, and enclosures without further testing provided the instructions accompanying the components are followed during assembly. Computers assembled in this fashion would also be accompanied by a Declaration of Conformity. Alternatively, the computer may be assembled using unauthorized components provided the resulting system is tested and accompanied by a Declaration of Conformity. While the measurement data, where required, must be retained by the responsible party, there is no requirement to file an application with, and obtain authorization from, the Commission prior to marketing or importation. Accordingly, we expect a significant decrease in the overall recordkeeping requirements.

Federal Rules Which Overlap, Duplicate or Conflict With These Rules: None.

Description, Potential Impact and Number of Small Entities Involved: The actions proposed in this proceeding will result in a significant decrease in the amount of testing and Commission authorization of computer systems. Currently, every combination of components used to make a basic computer system must be tested and authorized prior to marketing or importation. This is extremely burdensome, especially on small manufacturers. Under the proposal, as long as authorized components are used to assemble the computers no additional testing or Commission authorization would be required. However, there will be some impact to the entities that manufacture computer CPU boards, power supplies and enclosures. We estimate there are 50–75 manufacturers of CPU boards and a similar number of manufacturers of power supplies. No estimate is available on the potential number of manufacturers of enclosures. Even with this additional impact to the manufacturers of computer CPU boards, power supplies and enclosures, the overall workload will decrease.

Any Significant Alternatives Minimizing the Impact on Small Entities Consistent with Stated Objectives: None.

List of Subjects

47 CFR Part 2

Imports, Radio, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

47 CFR Part 15

Computer technology, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Federal Communications Commission,

William F. Caton

Acting Secretary

[FR Doc. 95–6965 Filed 3–21–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–M

47 CFR Part 63

[IB Docket No. 95–22; DA 95–502; RM–8355; and RM–8392]

Foreign-Affiliated Entities: In the Matter of Market Entry and Regulation

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission has granted an extension of time in which to file comments and reply comments to its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Market Entry and Regulation of Foreign-Affiliated Entities. The Commission acted in response to Telefonica Larga Distancia de Puerto Rico, Inc.'s (TLD) motion for an extension of time. Because of the broad range of complex legal, economic and policy issues raised in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Commission recognized the importance of receiving a complete and balanced presentation on the numerous issues, and found that an extension of time would help achieve this objective. The Commission, however, limited the extension of time to two weeks beyond the original due date for both the comments and reply comments. In addition to being concerned about a complete and balanced presentation on the issues, the Commission is equally interested in completing this proceeding in a timely manner, therefore it limited the requested extension to two weeks beyond the original due date.

As a result of the Commission order, the due date for comments in this proceeding has been extended to April 11, 1995, and the due date for the reply comments has been extended May 12, 1995.

DATES: Comments due April 11, 1995; Reply Comments due May 12, 1995.

ADDRESSES: All comments and reply comments concerning this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking should be addressed to: Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. Comments and reply comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Reference

Center (Room 239) of the Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St., NW., Washington, DC 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Troy Tanner or Ken Schagrin, International Bureau (202) 418–1470.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Order

Adopted: March 15, 1995.

Released: March 15, 1995.

By the Chief, International Bureau: 1. Telefonica Larga Distancia de Puerto Rico, Inc. (TLD) requests that the time for filing Comments and Reply Comments to the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*¹ be extended four weeks. TRW Inc., IDB Mobile Communications, Inc., and AmericaTel Corporation join TLD in this request.

2. This proceeding seeks comments on a broad range of complex legal, economic and policy issues involving the entry and regulation of foreign-affiliated entities in the U.S. telecommunications market. The issues raised have been the subject of much debate in recent years, and the Commission is interested in receiving a complete and balanced presentation on the numerous issues. While the Commission recognizes the wide range of issues to be addressed, it is also interested in completing this proceeding in a timely manner. Therefore, the Commission will limit the requested extension of time for Comments and Reply Comments to two weeks from the original due dates of March 28, 1995, and April 28, 1995, respectively.

3. Although the Bureau does not routinely grant extension requests, we find that an extension of the deadline for Comments to April 11, 1995, would be beneficial in this proceeding as it would enable the parties to fully develop their positions on the many issues raised in this proceeding. In addition, the Bureau will extend the deadline for filing Reply Comments to May 12, 1995. The parties should note, however, that the Bureau remains committed to completing this proceeding in a timely manner and that no further extensions are contemplated.

4. Accordingly, pursuant to § 0.261 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 0.261, it is ordered that the deadline for filing Comments to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is extended to April 11, 1995, and the deadline for filing Reply Comments is extended to May 12, 1995.

Federal Communications Commission.

Scott Blake Harris,

Chief, International Bureau.

[FR Doc. 95–7017 Filed 3–21–95; 8:45 am]

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¹ *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, IB Docket No. 95–22, RM–8355, RM–8392 (Released February 17, 1995), 60 FR 11644, March 2, 1995.