

Federal Communications Commission  
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Washington DC 20554

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RE: DA 16-676  
ET Docket No. 16-191

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FCC Mail Room

Comment for consideration:

There is no question that there is a noise problem in the United States as a result of poorly designed and/or poorly made electronics. I am not an amateur radio operator but rather a consumer who listens to various RF services (AM broadcast commercial stations, amateur radio broadcasts, weather station reports, CB radio, etc.).

I have noticed over the course of the last twenty years that RF noise has been an increasing problem, and occasionally find I have whole sections of the AM broadcast band that are rendered unusable for me as a result of all this interference. The lower half of the band seems to be more effected.

In trying to track down the source of this noise using a small transistor portable radio, I find CFL light bulbs and power supply adapters for electronic devices (i.e. cellphone chargers, laptop power supply bricks, wall-wart style AC to DC converters) are some of the worst offenders I run into as a consumer.

Not coincidentally many of these devices seem to have fraudulent UL, FCC, and CE labels on them since foreign governments (i.e. China) know they can send cargo container ships full of these badly-made electronics to our country with little odds of anyone ever taking the time to make sure they are actually safe &/or compliant. If anyone does find that they are illegal in some manner, nothing is done about it. There are no way to recall these products because by the time anyone notices there is a problem the company has disappeared & reappeared under another name- if there is a brand name at all, as often there is not.

Probably related to this is the amount of dangerous electronic devices being sold to US consumers where they are using recycled, cobbled together "junk" to construct things like power supplies to where it is not unheard of for people to open them up and find things like screws in place of fuses, hex nuts being used as PCB spacers, etc.- the internet is full of examples if one takes the time to google the subject, and I would expect many house fires in this country are a direct result of this problem.

While I don't have any hard data to show you on the subject of noise, I do question what the FCC can do about it when there is no enforcement mechanism for these imports. It seems the rules are only applicable to American citizens, and the rest of the world can undercut us and dump their garbage on us, with no one verifying that what is being sold is actually what it says it is (i.e. fake CE & UL logos, which is a criminal practice IMO). It would take a substantial amount of regulators to sit at our ports and dismantle incoming electronics to determine if they are as they are said to be- we're talking hundreds of thousands if not more of government employees to take on such a problem, each needing enough education & training to work around and understand electronics to the length necessary.

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Having lived in rural, urban and suburban environments I have to agree that this is related to population density insofar as the more people there are in an area, the more electronics there are. Thus even if 1% of devices are creating intentional or unintentionally radiated "noise" or interference, that number translates into a lot more of a problem for someone say in an urban apartment complex or office building. I currently live in an apartment and therefore even if I as an individual cared about this problem enough to rid my home from offending devices, I would have no way to do the same with my neighbors (many of whom I don't even know).

Respectfully,  
-S. Gath  
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