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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the matter of)
)
1998 Biennial Regulatory Review --)
Amendment of Parts 2, 25, and 68 of the)
Commission's Rules to Further Streamline)
the Equipment Authorization Process for)
Radio Frequency Equipment, Modify the)
Equipment Authorization Process for)
Telephone Terminal Equipment, Implement)
Mutual Recognition Agreements and Begin)
Implementation of the Global Mobile)
Personal Communications by Satellite)
(GMPCS) Arrangements)

GEN Docket No. 98-68

REPLY COMMENTS

The Telecommunications Industry Association ("TIA") hereby submits these Reply Comments in response to the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC's") Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM") in the matter of the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Amendment of Parts 2, 25, and 68 of the Commission's Rules to Further Streamline the Equipment Authorization Process for Radio Frequency Equipment, Modify the Equipment Authorization Process for Telephone Terminal Equipment, Implement Mutual Recognition Agreements and Begin Implementation of the Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite ("GMPCS") Arrangements, released May 18, 1998, GEN Docket 98-68, FCC 98-62, 63 Fed. Reg. 31685 (June 10, 1998), and the Comments filed by other parties. The Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology,

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extended the due date for Reply Comments in this proceeding until August 26, 1998, in Order Granting Extension of Time, released August 4, 1998, DA-98-1527. TIA has reviewed the Comments filed by industry with regard to the proposed revisions to Parts 2 and 68 of the Commission's Rules. TIA hereby submits the following Reply Comments.

Reply Comments to SEA, Inc.

In its initial Comments, SEA, Inc. lists four factors that the FCC identifies as benefits to small entities.¹ SEA indicates that it does not believe that these benefits outweigh the burdens of increased costs and additional paperwork that would befall small radio frequency ("RF") product manufacturers as a result of implementation of these Rules. TIA does not agree with this view. Instead, TIA believes that the increased number of telecommunications certifying bodies ("TCBs") would benefit small companies in view of the global reach that would result from the implementation of these proceedings. In addition, the vast majority of TIA's 900 members are medium and small companies that fully support this activity.

Reply Comments to the United States Council of EMC Laboratories ("USCEL") and DLS Electronic Systems, Inc. ("DLS")

USCEL and DLS believe that there is a need for a domestic Competent Body ("CB") structure for electromagnetic compatibility ("EMC") and radio applications

¹ See SEA, Inc. Comments at 2 and 3 for discussion of the four factors specified.

similar to what exists in Europe for the EMC Directive.^{2,3} TIA does not believe that there is a need for a similar CB structure in the United States. Instead, TIA recommends that if interpretation of the radio or EMC requirements is required, this should be done in voluntary industry fora, with appropriate government participation, as mentioned in Sections 2.962(b)(5) and 68.232(b)(5) of the NPRM.

Additional Text on Revoking Product Certification

In reviewing TIA's Comments and the NPRM, TIA realizes that there is an omission relating to the TCB's role in advising the FCC that a certification has been revoked.⁴ Therefore, TIA recommends that a statement such as the following should be added in the final order for the post-certification requirements:

When a TCB revokes certification of a product, it shall notify the Federal Communications Commission of this action.

Conclusion

TIA encourages the Commission to act in an expeditious manner to adopt this Order, with the addition of TIA's recommended changes. When the final rules are adopted, TIA is prepared to work with the FCC and other government agencies in

² See USCEL's Comments at 2-4.

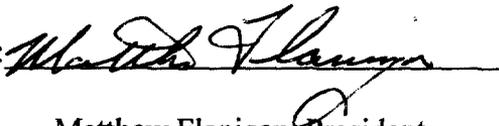
³ See DLS's Comments at 1.

⁴ See TIA's Comments at 4-8.

sponsoring Workshops to help educate the industry about the new options made available, especially those options necessary to support the implementation of the recently adopted and future Mutual Recognition Agreements/Arrangements (“MRAs”).

Respectfully submitted,

Telecommunications Industry Association

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August 26, 1998

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Luis R. Gittens Jr, an employee of Telecommunications Industry Association/TIA, do hereby certify that on this 26th day of August, a copy of the foregoing Comments was served upon the following via U.S. First Class Mail, postage prepaid:

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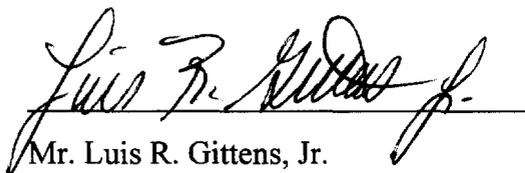
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