

Advancements in Amateur Radio transmitter technology have led to the availability of highly compact, sophisticated, low-power transmitters that require more than 15 dB of amplification to achieve maximum legal power output. Therefore, the removal of the 15 dB limit from §97.317 (a 2) is requested. Current amplifiers built, or imported, into the United States are additionally required to meet the requirements of § 97.317 (a3) Standards for certification of external RF power amplifiers. The amplifier shall exhibit no amplification (0dB gain) between 26 MHz and 28 MHz. The § 97.317 (a 3) requirement prevents the modification of the amplifier in the event the amplifier is eventually sold to an unlicensed party with the intention of being used in services other than the Amateur Radio Service. Currently built Amplifiers are required to meet the FCC mandated automatic disconnect and other features preventing 27-MHz operation. With no available circuitry or control provision to circumvent this lockout. With the current § 97.317 (a 3) requirement, no amplifier can be modified for operation in non-Amateur Radio Services, meeting the original limitations intended for the 27-Mhz band. Please revise §97.317 (a 2) by removing the 15dB gain restriction.