

RECEIVED

MAR 12 2002

Before the  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
Washington, DC 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the matter of	)	
	)	
Review of Part 15 and other Parts of the	)	ET Docket 01-278
Commission's Rules	)	RM-9375
	)	RM-10051
	)	

**REPLY COMMENTS OF  
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT LABORATORIES**

The American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL), pursuant to Section 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's Rules, hereby submits these reply comments in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in the above captioned proceeding.

ACIL is the trade association representing independent scientific, engineering and testing firms. ACIL's 300 member companies operate approximately 1500 facilities throughout the United States. Member firms practice in the chemical, physical, biological, natural science and engineering disciplines. Many ACIL members are FCC-listed laboratories. Many are telecommunications certification bodies (TCBs).

Since its founding in 1937, ACIL has been a leading force in the area of laboratory accreditation. ACIL was one of the founding members of NVLAP and A2LA; however, as redundant and costly accreditation programs have proliferated, ACIL helped create NACLA. Now the challenge is even greater,

No. of Copies: 10  
Date: 3/6/02 

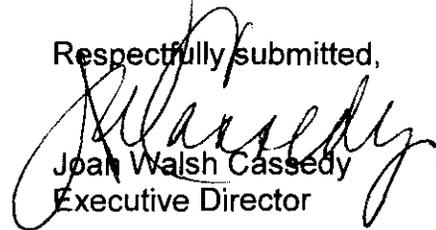
which is to ensure that the standards for accreditation are applied fairly and consistently.

Given its experience with accreditation issues, ACIL opposes the Commission's proposal to remove the requirement from Section 2.948 from its rules that require laboratories to submit test data for equipment subject to certification under Parts 15 and 18 to file an up-to-date description of its facilities with the Commission. By removing this requirement for accredited laboratories only and shifting it to the accrediting bodies, the Commission is adding costs to the accredited laboratory since it must now pay for an accreditation body to file this information with the Commission. This will severely impact small- and medium-sized laboratories, which comprise the majority of FCC-listed laboratories and most of ACIL members.

The proposed change by itself might be acceptable; however, combined with the change in criteria (to the new ANSI C63.4-2000 measurement procedure) for determining the technical acceptance of a site, there will be no consistent application of the new standard for many years as there was wide interpretation of the standard within the C63 committee that ultimately approved it. Therefore, ACIL opposes the Commission's proposal to change the current measurement standard.

In the alternative, ACIL proposes that the Commission hold both proposals in abeyance until a series of meetings can be held among the Commission, accreditors and laboratories to (1) establish clear and defined guidelines on how the new measurement standard will be applied, and (2) to establish a reasonable timeframe in which the new measurement standard can be implemented. ACIL is prepared to assist in this effort and is at the disposal of the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan Walsh Cassidy", is written over the typed name and title.

Joan Walsh Cassidy  
Executive Director

for

American Council of Independent  
Laboratories  
1629 K Street  
Washington, DC 20006

March 12, 2002