

The FCC Tuesday said Verizon Wireless has agreed to pay \$1.25 million to settle an investigation into whether it had blocked access to certain mobile broadband apps and will now inform customers it has no problem with them.

The open access conditions on the FCC C block spectrum Verizon successfully bid for at auction included allowing customers to use devices and applications of their choosing. "Today's action demonstrates that compliance with FCC obligations is not optional," said the FCC. "The open device and application obligations were core conditions when Verizon purchased the C-block spectrum."

The FCC launched an investigation after reports and a complaint that Verizon had asked "a major application store operator block Verizon's customers from accessing tethering applications from its online market." (Tethering is using a wireless phone as a modem to obtain Internet access for another device, such as a laptop computer or tablet.)