

§ 3.1000(c) requiring survivors to file claims for accrued benefits also do not apply to payments under this section. When a *Nehmer* class member dies prior to receiving retroactive payments under this section, VA will pay the amount to an identified payee in accordance with paragraph (f)(1) of this section without requiring an application from the payee. Prior to releasing such payment, however, VA may ask the payee to provide further information as specified in paragraph (f)(3) of this section.

(3) *Identifying payees.* VA shall make reasonable efforts to identify the appropriate payee(s) under paragraph (f)(1) of this section based on information in the veteran's claims file. If further information is needed to determine whether any appropriate payee exists or whether there are any persons having equal or higher precedence than a known prospective payee, VA will request such information from a survivor or authorized representative if the claims file provides sufficient contact information. Before releasing payment to an identified payee, VA will ask the payee to state whether there are any other survivors of the class member who may have equal or greater entitlement to payment under this section, unless the circumstances clearly indicate that such a request is unnecessary. If, following such efforts, VA releases the full amount of unpaid benefits to a payee, VA may not thereafter pay any portion of such benefits to any other individual, unless VA is able to recover the payment previously released.

(4) *Bar to accrued benefit claims.* Payment of benefits pursuant to paragraph (f)(1) of this section shall bar a later claim by any individual for payment of all or any part of such benefits as accrued benefits under 38 U.S.C. 5121 and § 3.1000.

(g) *Awards covered by this section.* This section applies only to awards of disability compensation or DIC for disability or death caused by a disease listed in paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501)

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 15

[ET Docket No. 98-156; FCC 03-175]

Certification of Equipment in the 24.05-24.25 GHz Band at Field Strengths up to 2500 mV/m

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule; termination.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Commission affirms the decision to allow the unlicensed operation of fixed point-to-point transmitters in the 24.05-24.25 GHz band at field strengths up to 2500 mV/m under amended provisions of the Commission's rules. In the course of taking this action, the Commission also denies the petition for reconsideration filed by the National Association for Amateur Radio (ARRL) that challenged the decision to allow the described operation on an unlicensed basis. Because the MO&O resolves all pending matters in this proceeding, the Commission terminates this proceeding.

ADDRESSES: Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Thayer, Office of Engineering and Technology, (202) 418-2290, TTY (202) 418-2989, e-mail: gary.thayer@fcc.gov; Neal McNeil, Office of Engineering and Technology, (202) 418-2408, e-mail: neal.mcneil@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's Memorandum Opinion and Order, ET Docket No. 98-156, FCC 03-175, adopted July 15, 2003, and released July 21, 2003. The full text of this Commission decision is available on the Commission's Internet site at www.fcc.gov. It is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Information Center, Room CY-A257, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. The complete text of this document also may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, Qualex International, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554. Alternative formats are available to persons with disabilities by contacting Brian Millin at (202) 418-7426 or TTY (202) 418-7365.

Summary of the Memorandum Opinion and Order

1. In the Report and Order (R&O) in this proceeding, ET Docket No. 98-156,

67 FR 1,623, January 14, 2002, the Commission amended § 15.249 of the Commission's rules to allow unlicensed operation of fixed point-to-point transmitters in the 24.05-24.25 GHz band with field strengths up to 2500 mV/m. The Commission further decided that such devices must use directional antennas with gains of at least 33 dBi or a main lobe beamwidth not exceeding 3.5 degrees. The Commission also adopted strict frequency stability requirements to limit out-of-band emissions to minimal levels. The Commission concluded that it is in the public interest to allow such operation on an unlicensed basis to supplement the growing demand for licensed point-to-point facilities that satisfy important communications needs. For example, the Commission concluded that increasing the field strength limit would promote greater use of part 15 unlicensed devices for emergency restoration of communications in disaster situations, low-cost telecommunications delivery in rural areas, and other beneficial applications.

2. By this Memorandum Opinion and Order, the Commission affirms the decision made in the R&O to allow the unlicensed operation of fixed point-to-point transmitters in the 24.05-24.25 GHz band at field strengths up to 2500 mV/m under amended provisions of § 15.249 in part 15 of the Rules. The Commission affirms the central technical finding made in the R&O namely, that devices having field strengths up to 2500 mV/m and conforming to the specified directional antenna requirements are suitable for unlicensed operation under part 15 in the 24.05-24.25 GHz band. In particular, the Commission affirms the conclusion that devices operating within these requirements will not increase the interference potential to licensed amateur services in the band.

3. In the course of affirming its decision in the R&O, the Commission also denies the petition for reconsideration filed by the National Association for Amateur Radio (ARRL) that challenged the propriety of the described operation in the 24.05-24.25 GHz band on an unlicensed basis. Because the unlicensed operation provided for by the R&O will not increase the interference potential to licensed amateur services in the band, the Commission finds no merit in ARRL's argument that the Commission violated 47 U.S.C. 301 of the Communications Act in authorizing the unlicensed operation under part 15 of the Commission's rules. Furthermore, the Commission affirms that the rules adopted in the R&O are reasonable for

regulating the unlicensed operation that was authorized under part 15 in this proceeding. Finally, since the MO&O resolves all pending matters in this proceeding, the Commission terminates this proceeding.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene H. Dortch,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-21618 Filed 8-22-03; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 63

[FCC 02-154]

2000 Biennial Regulatory Review: International Telecommunications Service, Correction

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: In this document the Commission amends a reference to a section that has been removed from the Commission's rules.

DATES: Effective on August 25, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peggy Reitzel, Telecommunications Division, International Bureau, (202) 418-1499.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission published a document in the **Federal Register** on July 9, 2002, (67 FR 45387).

■ In the FR Doc. 02-16738, the final rule removed § 63.18(e)(3) and redesignated paragraph (e)(4) as paragraph (e)(3). Redesignating paragraph (e)(4) as paragraph (e)(3) resulted in an incorrect reference in § 63.11(d). This document corrects § 63.11(d) to read as follows:

§ 63.11 Notification by and prior approval for U.S. international carriers that are or propose to become affiliated with a foreign carrier.

* * * * *

(d) *Cross-Reference:* In the event a transaction requiring a foreign carrier notification pursuant to this section also requires a transfer of control of assignment application pursuant to § 63.24, the foreign carrier notification shall reference in the notification the transfer of control of assignment application and the date of its filing.

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Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene H. Dortch,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-21617 Filed 8-22-03; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 64

[CC Docket No. 98-67; FCC 03-112]

Telecommunication Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals With Hearing and Speech Disabilities

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document amends the Commission rules pertaining to mandatory minimum standards, and other regulations, for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) and speech-to-speech services for individuals with hearing and speech disabilities. The amended rules are intended to improve the overall effectiveness of TRS to ensure that persons with hearing and speech disabilities have access to telecommunications networks that is consistent with the goal of functional equivalency mandated by Congress.

DATES: Effective September 24, 2003 except § 64.604 (a)(3) and (c)(2) of the Commission's rules, which contains information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), that are not effective until approved by Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Written comments by the public on the new and modified information collections are due October 24, 2003. The Commission will publish a document in the **Federal Register** announcing the effective date for that section.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC, 20554. In addition to filing comments with the Secretary, a copy of any comments on the information collection(s) contained herein should be submitted to Leslie Smith, Federal Communications Commission, Room 1-A804, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554, or via the Internet to Leslie.Smith@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cheryl King, of the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-2284 (voice), (202) 418-0416 (TTY), or e-mail Cheryl.King@fcc.gov. For additional information concerning

the information collection(s) contained in this document, contact Leslie Smith at (202) 418-0217, or via the Internet at Leslie.Smith@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This *Second Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration* contains new and modified collections subject to the PRA of 1995, Public Law 104-13. These will be submitted to the OMB for review under section 3507(d) of the PRA. OMB, the general public, and other Federal agencies are invited to comment on the new and modified information collections contained in this proceeding. This document contains a *Second Report and Order* addressing issues arising from the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking contained in *Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, (Improved TRS Order and FNPRM)*, CC No. Docket 98-67, FCC No. 00-56, 15 FCC Rcd 5140, March 6, 2000; published at 65 FR 40093, June 21, 2000, and comments received in response thereto. This document also contains an *Order on Reconsideration* which resolves petitions for reconsideration filed against the *Improved TRS Order and FNPRM*. Copies of any subsequently filed documents in this matter will be available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554. The complete text of this decision may be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, telephone (202) 863-2893, facsimile (202) 863-2898, or via e-mail qualexint@aol.com. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0531 (voice), (202) 418-7365 (tty). This *Second Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration* can also be downloaded in Text and ASCII formats at: <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro>.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The *Second Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration* contains either new and/or modified information collections. The Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, invites the general public to comment on the information