



4 January 2024

(24-0039)

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

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| 1. | Notifying Member: <u>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2): |
| 2. | Agency responsible: Federal Communications Commission (FCC) [2114] Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above: Please submit comments to: USA WTO TBT Enquiry Point, Email: usatbtep@nist.gov |
| 3. | Notified under Article 2.9.2 [], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [X], 5.7.1 [], 3.2 [], 7.2 [], other: |
| 4. | Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Satellite and earth station applications ; Quality (ICS code(s): 03.120); Satellite (ICS code(s): 33.070.40); Space systems and operations (ICS code(s): 49.140) |
| 5. | Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Expediting Initial Processing of Satellite and Earth Station Applications; (9 page(s), in English) |
| 6. | Description of content: Proposed rule - In this document, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) continues its long-standing practice of reviewing its licensing rules and practices in light of innovation and development in the satellite industry and seeks further comment on possible further streamlining and expediting of its rules. Proposals include: elimination of the procedural requirement to print and maintain a paper copy of a license; changing the default status of space and earth station proceedings to permit-but-disclose; allowing earth station operators to apply for and receive a limited license without an identified satellite point of communication. The Commission also seeks comment on: additional minor modifications to be made by operators without prior authorization from the Commission; whether to provide a process for market access petitioners to seek the equivalent of a special temporary authorization (STA); whether to expand the window for operators to file renewal applications for existing licenses; further streamlining some of its coordination requirements for earth and space station operators; expanding the conditions under which earth station operators could access the new, streamlined "deemed-granted" process for adding points of communications; timeframes for taking action on license applications; allowing operators to file STA extensions concurrently with an STA application; and on the creation of a permitted list that would include NGSO operators. |
| 7. | Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: Quality requirements; Cost saving and productivity enhancement |

8. Relevant documents:

88 Federal Register (FR) 85553, 8 December 2023; [Title 47](#) Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts [1](#) and [25](#):

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-12-08/html/2023-26700.htm>

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-12-08/pdf/2023-26700.pdf>

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-23-73A1.pdf>

The full text of the proposed rule is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/edocs/search-results?t=quick&fccdaNo=23-73>. This proposed rule is identified by IB Docket Nos. 22-411, 22-271 and FCC 23-73. For detailed instructions for submitting comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see document FCC 23-73 at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-23-73A1.pdf>. Documents are also accessible from the FCC's [Electronic Document Management System \(EDOCS\)](#) by searching the IB Docket Numbers. Comments are due on or before 8 January 2024; reply comments are due on or before 6 February 2024. WTO Members and their stakeholders are asked to submit comments to the [USA TBT Enquiry Point](#) by or before [4pm Eastern Time](#) on 6 February 2024. Comments received by the USA TBT Enquiry Point from WTO Members and their stakeholders will be shared with FCC and will also be submitted to the [FCC Electronic Comment Filing System \(ECFS\)](#) if received within the comment period.

9. Proposed date of adoption: To be determined

Proposed date of entry into force: To be determined

10. Final date for comments: 6 February 2024**11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body:**

https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2024/TBT/USA/24_00039_00_e.pdf