



PUBLIC NOTICE

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OET Clarifies Antenna Connector Requirements for Part 15 Unlicensed Transmitters

Section 15.203 requires transmitters to be designed in such a way as to ensure that no antenna other than that furnished by the responsible party shall be used with the device. A transmitter that utilizes a permanently attached antenna, or a transmitter that uses a unique coupling at the antenna and at any cable connector between the transmitter and the antenna, is considered to be compliant with the provision. The use of a standard antenna connector is prohibited except when professional installation is required for the transmitter.

In the past, the following non-standard connectors have been considered acceptable for meeting the requirement in Section 15.203: MMCX, MCX, and reverse polarity, SMA, BNC and TNC type antenna connectors. These types of connectors were allowed because, while not unique, they were, nonetheless, not readily available. Thus, modifying a Part 15 transmitter by the addition of an unauthorized antenna or external power amplifier was preventable.

However, because these connectors have become readily available, they are no longer considered sufficient to demonstrate compliance with Section 15.203. Therefore, 30 days from the date of this Public Notice, we will no longer accept MMCX, MCX, and reverse polarity, SMA, BNC and TNC type antenna connectors for meeting the requirements in Section 15.203 for all Part 15 transmitters. This action is being taken to inform applicants and manufacturers of this change in policy with respect to the aforementioned connectors.

For further information concerning this Public Notice contact Joe Dichoso at the FCC Laboratory, 7435 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21046, (301) 362-3024, or e-mail: jdichoso@fcc.gov.