Updating References to Standards Related to the Equipment Authorization Program

TCB Workshop
April 26th, 2023
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to Adopt Equipment Authorization-Related Standards

FCC presentation to TCB Workshop in April 2022 briefed an NPRM adopted by the Commission on January 24th, 2022, as FCC 22-3 and published in the Federal Register on March 17th, 2022, in ET Docket Number 21-363.

The NPRM proposed to incorporate by reference (IBR) a number of Equipment Authorization (EA) related standards and asked questions about other necessary rules modifications.

FCC presentation to TCB Workshop in October 2022 reported that the comments received were under review and that a final Report and Order was in preparation.
On March 10th, 2023, the Commission adopted a Report and Order (FCC 23-14) that updates the rules to incorporate by reference (IBR) four new and/or updated standards that are integral to equipment testing.

- The R&O was released on March 14th, 2023, but has not yet been published in the Federal Register.

Incorporates by reference ANSI C63.25.1: “American National Standard Validation Methods for Radiated Emission Test Sites; 1 GHz to 18 GHz” into sections 2.910 and 2.948(d) of the FCC rules.

- Consolidates legacy site validation test procedures from C63.4 and CISPR 16-1-4 and provides an option for use of a time-domain based site validation methodology.
- No need to adopt a transition period since previous methodology is retained.
Updates sections 2.910(c)(2), 2.950, 15.31(a)(3), and 15.38(g)(4) to IBR ANSI C63.10-2020: “American National Standard of Procedures for Compliance Testing of Unlicensed Wireless Devices” as replacement for ANSI C63.10-2013 in the FCC rules.

- Permits usage of either version of C63.10 for two years following the effective date of the rules adopted in the Order.

Adopts ANSI C63.4a-2017 amendment through incorporation by reference into sections 2.910, 2.948, 2.950, 15.31, 15.35, and 15.38 of the FCC rules while retaining existing IBR of C63.4-2014.

- Retention of existing C63.4-2014 standard while also adopting the amended standard makes either option available for unintentional radiators.
- No specified transition period.

- Replaces certain prescriptive requirements with performance-based requirements for test laboratory accreditation
- Permits the use of either ISO/IEC 17025:2005(E) or ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E) for a period of two years following the effective date of the rules adopted in the Order