

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Fiscal Year 2024 Agency Report

- 1. Please provide a summary of your agency's activities undertaken to carry out the provisions of OMB Circular A-119, "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities" and the National Technology Transfer and Advance Act (NTTAA). The summary should contain a link to the agency's standards-specific website(s) where information about your agency's standards and conformity assessment related activities are available.**

Summary

The FCC references many standards in support of the Commission's regulatory responsibilities. These standards, referenced in the FCC rules, range from referencing measurement methods and conformity assessment procedures to radio carriage requirements for oceangoing vessels to promote safety of life. In addition, standards are used to promote compatibility between radios and to achieve coordination among Commission licensees. In all cases, the Commission, through its public rulemaking process, has proposed and adopted voluntary consensus standards (e.g., ANSI, IEEE, 3GPP, etc.) under which licensees and permittees must operate and under which it carries out conformity assessment activities.

Voluntary Consensus Standards Examples

For example, the Commission uses consensus standards for certifying wireless handset models as hearing aid-compatible. The latest certification standard is the 2019 ANSI Standard which was developed and is maintained by the ANSI C63®–Electromagnetic Compatibility Committee (ANSI Committee). At the request of the ANSI Committee, the Commission incorporated by reference the 2019 ANSI Standard into the wireless hearing aid compatibility rules (47 CFR § 20.19) in February 2021 (FCC 21-28). This consensus standard references the TIA 5050 Volume Control Standard which is another consensus standard developed by a related ANSI Committee. Along with incorporating by reference the 2019 ANSI Standard into the Commission's wireless hearing aid compatibility rules, the Commission also incorporated by reference the TIA 5050 Volume Control Standard into the wireless hearing aid compatibility rules as part of the February 2021 order. The 2019 ANSI Standard and the related TIA 5050 Volume Control Standard became the exclusive testing standards for determining the hearing aid compatibility of wireless handset models in December 2023. These standards replaced older ANSI standards that the ANSI Committee had previously requested that the Commission use to determine wireless hearing aid compatibility. In addition to using industry developed technical standards for determining hearing aid compatibility, the Commission's hearing aid compatibility rules are based on industry consensus positions (e.g., FCC 24-112).

As another example, in August 2024, the Commission adopted a Report and Order that enables initial uncrewed aircraft system (UAS) operations in the 5030-5091 MHz band. The Report and Order adopted service rules that will provide operators the ability to obtain direct frequency assignments in a portion of the 5030-5091 MHz band, including certain technical rules mandating compliance with standards incorporated by reference to RTCA DO-362A, "Command and Control (C2) Data Link Minimum Operational Performance Standards (MOPS) (Terrestrial)." Another example is the successful use of the Telecommunications

Industry Association Telecommunications System Bulletin 10-F, "Interference Criteria for Microwave Systems." This standard, referenced within several Commission rule parts has become the cornerstone for applicants and licensees to successfully coordinate the use of microwave communications systems.

Also, on October 2, 2017 the European standard for wireless microphones ETSI EN 300 422-1 V1.4.2 (2011-08): "Electromagnetic compatibility and Radio Spectrum Matters (ERM); Wireless Microphones in the 25 MHz to 3 GHz frequency range; Part 1: Technical characteristics and methods of measurement, was incorporated by reference in Section 15.38 of the FCC rules. This standard is used for the evaluation of the out-of-band emissions of wireless microphones.

When making measurements to demonstrate compliance with the FCC rules it is required to use the appropriate measurement methods as specified in the applicable section of the FCC rules. For example, for Part 15 devices see Section 15.31 for a list of required measurement standards. Other measurement procedures that have been found acceptable by the Commission, in accordance with Section 2.947, may also be used. See Measurement Procedures and 47 CFR Section 2.947.

Conformity Assessment

Radio Frequency (RF) devices are required to be properly authorized under 47 CFR Part 2 prior to being marketed or imported into the United States. The Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) administers the equipment authorization program under the authority delegated to it by the Commission. This program is one of the principal ways the Commission ensures that RF devices used in the United States operate effectively without causing harmful interference and otherwise comply with the Commission's rules. All RF devices subject to equipment authorization must comply with the Commission's technical requirements prior to importation or marketing. See Equipment Authorization Approval Guide

2. **Please list the government-unique standards (GUS) your agency began using in lieu of voluntary consensus standards during FY 2021. Please note that GUS which are still in effect from previous years should continue to be listed, thus the total number in your agency's report will include all GUS currently in use (previous years and new as of this FY): 0**