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First Category: Radio Service Rules

Second Category: Part 15 Unintentional Radiators

Third Category:

Question: What household appliances, identified as Part 15 unintentional radiators, are considered exempt from the equipment authorization procedures?

Answer:

A household appliance using digital logic (as defined in Section 15.3 (k)) is classified under Part 15 Subpart B as a Class B digital device requiring an equipment authorization under the Verification procedure (Section 15.101). However, some appliances may be exempt from an equipment authorization procedure under Section 15.103.

An exempt household appliance is an electrical machine intended for basic housekeeping tasks that assists in washing clothes, general household cleaning or basic cooking. This includes appliances such as dishwashers, clothes dryers, air conditioners (central or window), etc.

To be exempt under Section 15.103 the digital circuitry must be contained within the major appliance, and not remotely connected via wire or cable. This exemption is limited to basic housekeeping appliances and is not intended to apply to all home-use products.

In addition to the above requirements, some appliances remain subject to the requirements of other FCC rule part(s). For example, consumer inductive cooking stoves and microwave ovens are subject to the technical standards and equipment authorization procedures under Part 18 of the FCC rules.

An exempt appliance is only exempt from equipment authorization procedures for the functions associated with the digital device circuitry. The appliance remains subject to the requirements in Section 15.5 requiring the device not cause harmful interference, and Section 15.29 regarding inspection by the Commission. It is strongly recommended that manufacturers or importers make every effort to meet the specific technical standards, follow appropriate FCC equipment authorization procedures, and comply with quality practices to ensure all units sold and marketed are, and will remain, compliant.

Questions about specific appliances may be submitted to <http://www.fcc.gov/labhelp> . The link "Submit an Inquiry" should then be used to access the inquiry form and submit a question.

