

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Engineering and Technology
Laboratory Division Draft for Review

Title: Wireless Chargers, Inductive Chargers

Short Title: Wireless Inductive Chargers

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Keyword: Part 15B, Part 18, Wireless Chargers. Inductive Charges, Wireless Charging Pads

First Category: Radio Service Rules

Second Category:

Third Category:

Question:

What rules regulate short distance wireless inductive coupled charging pads or charging devices?

Answer:

Wireless battery chargers and wireless power pads operating at frequencies above 9 kHz are intentional radiators and are subject to either Part 15 and/or Part 18 of the FCC rules. The specific rule part would depend on how the device operates and if there is communication between the charger and device being charged.

According to the Part 18 rules, there should not be exchange of information between the devices and the charger. Part 18 devices not placed in the close proximity of the surface of the power source pad require a case by case review by the Commission. Further, at the present time, based on the operating parameters and conditions, the Commission may require additional RF exposure evaluation for these products for consumer application. It is recommended that the device manufacturer seek guidance from the Commission to determine if such evaluation may be necessary. Part 18 consumer devices can be either certified or approved under DoC once the necessary test requirements have been established.

Intentional radiators transmitting information must be certified under the appropriate Part 15 rules and will generally require an equipment certification, except for special types of devices listed in Section 15.201 which may be subject to verification. It is possible that the power charging function could also be approved under Part 15 rather than Part 18 if the device meets all of the requirements of the appropriate rule part. However, the Commission would need to see a more detailed explanation to determine which rules are appropriate.

Finally, a wireless battery charger may also be certified under multiple rule parts (Part 18 and Part 15) when power and communications functions can be demonstrated independent from each other. In all these cases the Commission may also require RF exposure evaluation based on the system design.

