



**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Engineering and Technology
Laboratory Division**

June 5, 2024

Supplemental Coverage from Space (SCS)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Report and Order (R&O) FCC 24-28¹ provides new rules for Part 25 earth stations (e.g., phone handsets, WWAN-equipped laptops) that directly connect to satellites for communications purposes.² The effective date of the rules adopted in the R&O is 05/30/2024.³

For the initial six months following the rules becoming effective (i.e., until 11/30/2024), devices that have received equipment certification prior to 6/29/2024 that support specific licensed services frequency bands and rule parts (see Section 3) are permitted to supplement Part 25 listings on their existing equipment authorization grants as a Class II permissive change (C2PC), subject to a temporary waiver of the provisions of Sections 2.1043(c), 2.911(c), and (e). This waiver, which is designed to facilitate the addition of a Part 25 designation to handsets that may be also be used as SCS earth stations, applies solely to devices that have obtained certification for SCS frequency bands for terrestrial operations under Rule Part(s) 22/24/27, or similar, with at least one band certified, and for which the equipment certification was granted on or prior to the 60th day subsequent to the publication of a summary of the R&O in the Federal Register, i.e., 6/29/2024.

Thus, the sole exhibits necessary to process a C2PC under the temporary waiver are as follows:

- a) Cover letter with the following information/attestations:
 - i) Intent to add Part 25 SCS capability through software update only, i.e., no hardware changes.
 - ii) Attesting that no RF emissions have changed.
 - iii) Intent to use the temporary waiver process, which waives Sections 2.1043(c), 2.911(c) and (e).
- b) Covered equipment attestations (Section 2.911(d)).

¹ *Single Network Future: Supplemental Coverage from Space; Space Innovation*, GN Docket No. 23-65 and IB Docket No. 22-271, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 24-28 (2024).

² This KDB publication, as well as the rules adopted in the R&O, do not affect existing processes for Part 2 Subpart J equipment authorizations of earth-station devices operating under any Section 25.202 frequency bands and their associated Part 25 rules: for example, “direct-to-device” or 3GPP NTN operations.

³ FCC, *Single Network Future: Supplemental Coverage from Space, Space Innovation*, 89 Fed. Reg. 34148 (Apr. 30, 2024).

Given that the temporary waiver is implemented by the rule, do not mark the “associated with a waiver” box on the Form 731 or adhere to the waiver requirements outlined in KDB Publication 502150. Therefore, a PAG is not required.

After six months from the effective date of the rules, i.e., 11/30/2024, a C2PC may still be performed, however all exhibits as specified in Section 2.911 (including a Part 25 test report) will be required. The permissive change will only be allowed if it meets the acceptability criteria for a permissive change in KDB Publication 178919 D01.

A new ID may be obtained for a device at any time. However, all exhibits as required in Section 2.911 will be required.

The EAS Form-731 Grant Note 07 shall be used for identifying Part 25 SCS capability.

2. FILING EXAMPLES

- a) A new earth station may be certified under Part 25 with SCS capability using a new FCC ID after 05/30/2024. Follow regular Form 731 filing process for a new ID including Part 25 test report, RF exposure compliance info, etc.
- b) A device certified for terrestrial operation under rule Part(s) 22/24/27 on or before 06/29/2024 is eligible for adding SCS capability under Part 25 via a C2PC using the temporary waiver process if the permissive change is performed before 11/30/2024.
- c) A device certified for terrestrial operation under rule Part(s) 22/24/27 after 06/29/2024 may add SCS capability under Part 25 via a C2PC. The temporary waiver does not apply, and regular Form 731 filing process for a C2PC shall be applied. The C2PC is only acceptable if allowed under permissive change KDB Publication 178919.

3. CMRS FREQUENCY BANDS AVAILABLE FOR SCS

- 600 MHz: 614-652 MHz and 663-698 MHz
- 700 MHz: 698-769 MHz, 775 MHz-799 MHz, and 805-806 MHz
- 800 MHz: 824-849 MHz and 869-894 MHz
- Broadband PCS: 1850-1915 MHz and 1930-1995 MHz
- AWS-H Block: 1915-1920 MHz and 1995-2000 MHz

Change Notice:

06/05/2023: 273109 D02 Part 25 SCS and CMRS-Bands v01 is an initial document.