

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554**

63811

News media information 202/418-0500. Recorded listing of releases and texts 202/418-2222.

July 3, 1996

CONDITIONS FOR USE OF OUTDOOR TEST RANGES FOR RF IMMUNITY TESTING

Laboratories are alerted that measurements of the radio frequency (RF) immunity of electronic equipment may not be performed on open area test sites without a station license.

Electronic products are frequently designed to meet RF immunity standards that ensure proper operation of the product in the presence of strong RF fields. Compliance with RF immunity standards is not mandatory for most products under the FCC Rules. However, many manufacturers voluntarily design their products to comply with RF immunity standards or are subject to mandatory immunity requirements in foreign markets.

RF immunity tests are normally performed in an RF shielded room or anechoic chamber so that the radio signals used to illuminate the product do not radiate over the airwaves. We understand, however, that some laboratories may be performing these tests on open area test sites where the signals may radiate over the airwaves and pose a significant risk of interference to communications services.

Parties wishing to perform RF immunity tests on an open area site are reminded that they must be conducted in a manner that confines the RF energy to the immediate area, such as a shielded room or anechoic chamber, to prevent interference to radio communications. Failure to do so is a violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. In special cases, where it is impractical to test in a shielded area because of the size of the equipment, applications for a Special Temporary Authority (STA) to conduct testing on an open area site will be considered by the Commission. However, STAs will be granted only for limited power, frequencies and times of operation.

Questions concerning this public notice may be directed to Mr. Thomas Phillips at (301) 725 1585, extension 218. Questions concerning STAs may be directed to Mr. Carl Huie at (202) 418-2430.