



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

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**SCANNING RECEIVER
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Question 1 – What is the definition of a scanning receiver?

Answer 1 – Scanning receivers are defined in Section 15.3(v):

For the purpose of this part, this is a receiver that automatically switches among two or more frequencies in the range of 30 to 960 MHz and that is capable of stopping at and receiving a radio signal detected on a frequency. Receivers designed solely for the reception of the broadcast signals under Part 73 of this chapter, for the reception of NOAA broadcast weather band signals, or for operation as part of a licensed service are not included in this definition.

Question 2 – What authorization procedure is required for scanning receivers?

Answer 2 – Scanning receivers are subject to certification (Sections 2.907, 2.911, etc.) per 15.101(a).

Question 3 – Is certification required for an amateur-radio receiver end product that also scans the frequencies outside of the authorized amateur radio service bands, such that it is considered as a scanning receiver?

Answer 3 – Yes, since it is considered a scanning receiver, it is subject to certification.

Question 4 – What are the approval requirements for a scanning receiver end-product that has a mini 6DIN I/F connector, and where users can connect it to TNC or slow-scan TV? The supplier of this device does not provide equipment that connects to the scanning receiver. It is possible that the user chooses to connect this device to a personal computer. Is this device considered a computer peripheral thus subject to certification or Supplier's Declaration of Conformity (per Section 15.101)?

Answer 4 – Because the device can connect to a personal computer, and can be programmed by the user, it is considered to be a composite device (Sections 2.947(f), 15.31(h), 15.31(k)) comprised of Class B peripheral and scanning receiver. The scanning receiver portion must be

certified, and the peripheral portion is subject to either certification or Supplier's Declaration of Conformity (SDoC).

Question 5 – The end-product of Question 4 also has GPS I/F. Is this portion of the scanning receiver subject to Part 15 if it operates at frequencies over 1 GHz?

Answer 5 – No, the definition for a scanning receiver applies only to receivers that tune to two or more frequency bands between 30 MHz to 960 MHz. Other types of receivers may require authorization as a digital device or specific requirements as specified in Section 15.101. The receivers are also subject to the general operating requirements of Section 15.5. For authorization of digital devices see KDB Publication 896810.

Question 6 – If a device is strictly intended for and used only in an automobile, will it be considered exempt per Section 15.103?

Answer 6 – The scanning receiver portion of an end product is always subject to certification. Section 15.103 allows exemption of the digital circuitry portion used in automobiles, however, the scanning receiver is required to be certified.