(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, the effectiveness of paragraph (b)(3) of this section is stayed with regard to emissions occurring in 2023 and thereafter, provided that while such stay remains in effect, the provisions of paragraph (b)(2) of this section shall apply with regard to such emissions.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, the effectiveness of paragraph (c)(1) of this section is stayed.

PART 97—FEDERAL NOX BUDGET TRADING PROGRAM, CAIR NOX AND SO2 TRADING PROGRAMS, CSAPR NOX AND SO2 TRADING PROGRAMS, AND TEXAS SO2 TRADING PROGRAM

10. The authority citation for part 97 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401, 7403, 7410, 7426, 7491, 7601, and 7651, et seq.

Subpart EEEEE—CSAPR NOX Ozone Season Group 2 Trading Program

11. Amend § 97.810 by:

a. Revising paragraphs (a)(1)(i) through (iii) and (a)(17)(i) through (iii);

b. Adding paragraphs (a)(22)(iv) through (vi);

c. Revising paragraphs (b)(1) and (17); and

d. Redesignating paragraph (b)(22) as paragraph (b)(22)(i) and adding paragraph (b)(22)(ii).

The revisions and additions read as follows:

§ 97.810 State NOX Ozone Season Group 2 trading budgets, new unit set-asides, Indian country new unit set-asides, and variability limits.

(a) * * *

(1) * * *

(i) The NOX Ozone Season Group 2 trading budget for 2017 and thereafter is 13,211 tons.

(ii) The new unit set-aside for 2017 and thereafter is 221 tons.

(iii) The Indian country new unit set-aside for 2017 and thereafter is 13 tons.

(b) * * *

(i) The NOX Ozone Season Group 2 trading budget for 2017 and thereafter is 11,641 tons.

(ii) The new unit set-aside for 2017 and thereafter is 221 tons.

(iii) The Indian country new unit set-aside for 2017 and thereafter is 12 tons.

(17) * * *

(i) The NOX Ozone Season Group 2 trading budget for 2023 and thereafter is 12,884 tons.

(ii) The new unit set-aside for 2023 and thereafter is 261 tons.

(b) * * *

(1) The variability limit for Alabama for 2017 and thereafter is 2,774 tons.

(i) The new unit set-aside for 2023 and thereafter is 2,706 tons.

(ii) The variability limit for West Virginia for 2023 and thereafter is 2,706 tons.

(22) * * *

(ii) The variability limit for West Virginia for 2023 and thereafter is 2,706 tons.

§ 97.821 [Amended]

12. Amend § 97.821 in paragraph (e)(2) by removing “By September 5, 2023, the Administrator” and adding in its place “By September 5, 2023, or, with regard to sources in West Virginia, as soon as practicable on or after September 29, 2023, the Administrator”.

§ 97.824 [Amended]

13. Amend § 97.824 in paragraph (a)(2) by removing the period at the end of the paragraph and adding a semicolon in its place.

§ 97.825 [Amended]

14. Amend § 97.825 in paragraph (a)(2) by removing the period at the end of the paragraph and adding a semicolon in its place.

§ 97.826 [Amended]

15. Amend § 97.826 in paragraph (e)(1) introductory text by removing “§ 52.38(b)(2)(ii)(A) or (D)” and adding in its place “§ 52.38(b)(2)(ii)(A) or (D)”. The new unit set-aside for 2017 and thereafter is 261 tons.

Subpart GGGGG—CSAPR NOX Ozone Season Group 3 Trading Program

§ 97.1026 [Amended]

16. Amend § 97.1026:

a. In paragraph (d)(2)(ii) introductory text, by removing “§ 52.38(b)(2)(ii)” and adding in its place “§ 52.38(b)(2)(ii)(A) through (C)”; and

b. In paragraph (e) introductory text, by removing “by September 18, 2023, the Administrator” and adding in its place “by September 18, 2023, or, with regard to sources in West Virginia, as soon as practicable on or after September 29, 2023, the Administrator”.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Parts 2, 15, 68, and 73

[ET Docket No. 21–363; FCC 23–14; FR ID 172974]

UpdAting References to Standards Related to the Commission’s Equipment Authorization Program

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) updates the rules to incorporate four new and updated standards that are integral to equipment testing. By updating the Commission’s rules to keep pace with significant developments in the standards-setting community, the Commission ensures that the equipment authorization program relies on the latest guidance so that the public has confidence that today’s advanced devices comply with its technical rules.

DATES: This regulation is effective October 30, 2023. The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the rule is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of October 30, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jamie Coleman, Office of Engineering and Technology, (202) 418–2705 or Jamie.Coleman@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission’s Report and Order, in ET Docket No. 21–363; FCC 23–14, adopted on March 10, 2023, and released on March 14, 2023. The full text of this document is available for public inspection and can be downloaded at: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-23-14A1.pdf. Alternative formats are available for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format) by sending an email to FCC504@fcc.gov or calling the Commission’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418–0530 (voice), (202) 418–0432 (TTY).

Procedural Matters

Final Regulatory Flexibility Analyses. The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (RFA) requires that an agency prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis for notice and comment rulemakings, unless the agency certifies that “the rule will not, if promulgated, have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.” Accordingly, the Commission has prepared a Final
Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRA) concerning the possible impact of the rule changes and/or policy contained in the Report and Order on small entities. As required by the RFA, an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA) was incorporated in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), 87 FR 151189 (March 17, 2022). The Commission sought written public comment on the proposals in the NPRM, including comments on the IRFA. No comments were filed addressing the IRFA. Accordingly, the Commission has prepared a Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRFA) concerning the possible impact of the rule changes contained in the document on small entities. The present FRFA conforms to the RFA and can be viewed under Appendix B of the item.

Paperwork Reduction Act. This document does not contain information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Public Law 104–13. In addition, therefore, it does not contain any new or modified information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees, pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Public Law 107–198, see 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(4). The Commission has described impacts that might affect small businesses, which includes most businesses with fewer than 25 employees, in the Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRFA), and can be viewed under Appendix B of the item at: https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-updates-equipment-authorization-standards.


Synopsis

Background

Section 302 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the Act), authorizes the Commission to make reasonable regulations governing the interference potential of devices that emit RF energy and can cause harmful interference to radio communications. The Commission generally implements rules for RF devices. One of the primary ways the Commission ensures compliance with the technical rules is through the equipment authorization program for RF devices, procedures for which are codified in part 2 of its rules. The Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) administers the day-to-day operation of the equipment authorization program.

Part 2 of the Commission’s rules provides two different approval procedures for RF devices subject to equipment authorization—certification and Supplier’s Declaration of Conformity (SDoC). While both processes involve laboratory testing to demonstrate compliance with Commission requirements, testing associated with certification must be performed by an FCC-recognized accredited testing laboratory. Additionally, part 68 of the Commission’s rules sets forth requirements to ensure that terminal equipment can be connected to the telephone network without harming its functioning and for the compatibility of hearing aids and land-line telephones so as to ensure that, to the fullest extent made possible by technology and medical science, people with hearing loss have equal access to communications services.

Equipment testing is central to the equipment authorization program in ensuring that RF devices comply with Commission rules. Acknowledging the best practices widely followed by industry, the Commission’s equipment authorization rules often incorporate by reference various standards established by standards-setting bodies, including, but not limited to, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Accredited Standards Committee C63 (ANSIC63); the International Organization for Standardization; and the International Electrotechnical Commission. Use of these standards is intended to ensure the integrity of the measurement data associated with an equipment authorization. Among other things, such standards provide procedures for conducting measurements at testing facilities and specify the conditions expected in the testing environment.

Discussion

Standards bodies periodically update existing standards or adopt new standards to reflect best practices in response to advancements in technologies and measurement capabilities. The Commission initiated this proceeding in response to such developments. Specifically, in the NPRM, the Commission addressed two petitions filed by ANSC C63: one seeking to incorporate by reference into its rules a new standard pertaining to test site validation; and one proposing to incorporate by reference a newer version of a currently referenced standard that addresses a variety of compliance testing requirements. The Commission also proposed to clarify the status of two standards on which OET previously sought comment.

Incorporation by Reference

Incorporation by reference (IBR) is the process that federal agencies use when referring to materials published elsewhere to give those materials the same force and effect of law in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) as if the materials’ text had actually been published in the Federal Register. By using IBR, the Commission is able to give effect to technical instructions, testing methodologies, and other process documents that are developed and owned by standards development organizations. Referencing these documents in the Commission’s rules in accordance with regulations established by the Office of the Federal Register substantially reduces the volume of material that the Commission otherwise would have to publish in the Federal Register and the CFR. Once the Commission has completed any necessary notice-and-comment rulemaking proceedings and determined based on the record that any standards the Commission adopts is sound and appropriate, the Commission need only update the references to the standards in the Commission’s rules.

Availability of Materials

As an initial matter, the Commission addresses a comment regarding the IBR process in general as opposed to the merits of the particular standards under consideration. Specifically, Public Resource Org. Inc., iFixit, Inc., and Make Community, LLC (Joint Commenters) express concerns related to “the public availability and accessibility of documents that are proposed to be incorporated by reference into law.” Joint Commenters claim that the materials subject to IBR should be broadly available to members of the public on a free and unrestricted basis (e.g., in a format that can be easily copied without cost), that the standards documents were not made available in this manner during the rulemaking process, and that the Commission’s failure to do so was “illegal and arbitrary.” Joint Commenters are concerned that the accessibility of the relevant materials is often limited by what it characterizes as onerous conditions put in place by the associated private entities. It asks that
the Commission “restart” the rulemaking process with “everyone having free access and the right to copy” the standards under consideration.

The Commission recognizes that the benefit of using the IBR process to incorporate standards that are developed and hosted by professional standards development organizations into the rules—that the Commission can “draw on the expertise and resources of private sector standard developers to serve the public interest”—is typically accompanied with limitations on how those standards are accessed due to the standard developers’ intellectual property interests in those materials. For example, the National Archives and Records Administration, Office of the Federal Register (NARA OFR), in its final rule addressing incorporation by reference, concluded that a requirement to make available, for free, all materials incorporated by reference into the CFR would “compromise the ability of regulators to rely on voluntary consensus standards, possibly requiring them to create their own standards, which is contrary to the [National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995] and the OMB Circular A–119.” The Commission therefore disagrees with the sweeping nature of Joint Commenters’ claims. The requirements for availability as suggested by Joint Commenters would be inconsistent with established government-wide guidance and practice for IBR and would potentially burden test laboratories, manufacturers, and consumers if the Commission were unable to recognize state-of-the-art technical standards adopted and frequently updated through the consensus-driven standards development process.

The Commission further concludes that the information the Commission provided about the standards it proposed to adopt, including the means by which individuals could inspect copies of those standards, was sufficient to satisfy the requirements for incorporation by reference as set forth in the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) and implemented by NARA OFR in that the Commission made the information reasonably available to the class of persons affected thereby. In the summary of the NPRM published in the Federal Register, the Commission provided sources through which interested persons could obtain copies of the relevant standards and stated that a copy of each standard was available for inspection at the FCC’s main office. Each of the relevant standards has remained available throughout the rulemaking proceeding in the manner described in the NPRM. In addition, Commission staff further acted consistent with guidance from the Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS) to “take steps to promote the availability of incorporated materials within the framework of existing law” by communicating with the relevant standards bodies to encourage availability of materials in an online read-only format, and, prior to publication of the NPRM in the Federal Register, confirmed that each standard was available for purchase by any interested party.

In addressing the proposed rulemaking, Joint Commenters specifically address the terms by which interested parties may purchase copies of the standards. As an initial matter, the Commission notes there is nothing unusual about a direct purchase option being available as part of the IBR process. However, the Commission disagrees with the Joint Commenters’ assertion that “[i]n order to comment on [the NPRM], [the Joint Commenters] would have to each expend $589” by purchasing copies of the standards. Direct purchase was only one of the means of obtaining information about the standards under consideration. In this case, at least two of these standards were available online in a read-only format without cost, abstracts and information related to the standards are widely available without restriction, and the Commission, per its longstanding practice, ensured that the materials were available for in-person inspection. The Commission is not aware of any party that actually desired to inspect the materials but was unable to do so because of difficulties in traveling to the specified inspection site. Moreover, none of the comments filed in the proceeding that were related to the technical merits of the proposed standards incorporations identified any impediments to finding and accessing the standards under consideration. Based on these facts, and the established policy, the Commission concludes that the materials proposed to be incorporated by reference have been made reasonably available to the class of person affected, consistent with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and the requirements and procedures under 1 CFR part 51. The Commission therefore disagrees with Joint Commenters’ assertion that parties could not “see” or “have access to the text of the standards” such that they could not meaningfully participate in the rulemaking process.

The Commission is also confident that interested parties will have sufficient opportunities to access the standards on an ongoing basis once the Commission has incorporated them into its rules. The FCC will make a copy of the standards available for public inspection upon request, and NARA OFR makes legal record copies of all standards that have been incorporated by reference. In addition to continued opportunities to purchase copies through the standards development organizations and other online sources, the Commission anticipates that all of the standards, once adopted, will be made available to the public through the on-line reading rooms that the standards bodies maintain. For example, ANSI maintains an “Incorporated by Reference Portal” at www.ibransi.org that it describes as “a one-stop mechanism for access to standards that have been incorporated by reference in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR),” and which provides access to these documents at no cost in “read only” format for online reading. Collectively, these resources are more than sufficient to permit interested parties to accomplish the objectives identified by the Joint Commenters, including use of the standards by people who fix and evaluate equipment and make new things for understanding how the devices work and identifying whether they are working properly.

While the Commission recognizes that each of these access mechanisms may have individual limitations (e.g., cost, travel for in-person inspection, limitations on how the materials may be downloaded, shared, or otherwise used) that would not exist if the standards were made available “on a public website without charge, and without limitation of use” as the Joint Commenters request, none of these limitations would prevent interested parties from accessing and using the standards the Commission is adopting. For these reasons, the Commission explicitly rejects the Joint Commenters’ assertion that the Commission’s actions will be inconsistent with established public law and policy balancing the public interest in promoting the development of and reliance on voluntary standards against the need for public access to any such standards incorporated by reference by federal agencies.

Accessing Materials

The OFR has regulations concerning incorporation by reference. These regulations require that, for a final rule, agencies must discuss in the preamble to the final rule the way in which materials that the agency incorporates by reference are reasonably available to interested parties, and how interested parties can obtain the materials.
Additionally, the preamble to the final rule must summarize the material.

Sections 2.910 and 2.948 of the rules adopted in the Report and Order incorporate by reference the following standard: “American National Standard Validation Methods for Radiated Emission Test Sites; 1 GHz to 18 GHz” (ANSI C63.25.1–2018). The ANSI C63.25.1–2018 standard consolidates guidance from existing standards to provide test site validation procedures from 1 GHz to 18 GHz. Incorporation of this standard will provide an additional option for test site validation of radiated emission measurements from 1 GHz to 18 GHz, while continuing to provide for the validation option currently specified in the Commission’s rules. Interested persons may purchase a copy of ANSI C63.25.1 from the sources provided in 47 CFR 2.910. A copy of the standard may also be inspected at the FCC’s main office.

Sections 15.31 and 15.38 of the rules adopted in the Report and Order incorporate by reference the following standard: “American National Standard of Procedures for Compliance Testing of Unlicensed Wireless Devices” (ANSI C63.10–2020). The ANSI C63.10–2020 standard is an update to a standard previously incorporated by reference within the Commission’s rules and it addresses “the procedures for testing the compliance of a wide variety of unlicensed wireless transmitters.” Interested persons may purchase a copy of ANSI C63.10–2020 from the sources provided in 47 CFR 2.910. A copy of the standard may also be inspected at the FCC’s main office.

Sections 2.910, 2.948, 2.949, 2.962, and 68.162 of the rules adopted in the Report and Order incorporate by reference the following standard: “General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories” (ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E)). The ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E) standard is an update to the standard currently incorporated by reference within the Commission’s rules that replaces certain prescriptive requirements with performance-based requirements for test laboratory accreditation. The standard contains the requirements related to test laboratory accreditation, including requirements for processes, procedures, documented information, and organizational responsibilities. The laboratory accreditation bodies assess a variety of laboratory aspects, including the technical competence of staff; the validity and appropriateness of test methods; traceability of measurements and other technical standards; suitability, calibration, and maintenance of the testing environment; sampling, handling, and transportation of test items; and quality assurance of test and calibration data. Interested persons may purchase a copy of ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E) from the sources provided in 47 CFR 2.910 and 68.162. A copy of the standard may also be inspected at the FCC’s main office.

Sections 2.910 and 2.948 of the rules adopted in the Report and Order incorporate by reference the following standard: “American National Standard for Methods of Measurement of Radio-Noise Emissions from Low-Voltage Electrical and Electronic Equipment in the Range of 9 kHz to 40 GHz, Amendment 1: Test Site Validation” (ANSI C63.4a–2017). The ANSI C63.4a–2017 standard introduces modifications to the normalized site attenuation procedures for validating radiated test sites for use in the 30 MHz to 1 GHz frequency range. Interested persons may purchase a copy of ANSI C63.4a–2017 from the sources provided in 47 CFR 2.910. A copy of the standard may also be inspected at the FCC’s main office.

“American National Standard Validation Methods for Radiated Emission Test Sites; 1 GHz to 18 GHz” (ANSI C63.25.1–2018)

In consideration of an ANSC C63 petition for rulemaking, in the NPRM, the Commission proposed to incorporate by reference the standard titled “American National Standard Validation Methods for Radiated Emission Test Sites; 1 GHz to 18 GHz” (ANSI C63.25.1–2018), into the test site validation requirements of §2.948(d) of the Commission’s rules. Under the Commission’s current rules, measurement facilities that make radiated emission measurements from 30 MHz to 1 GHz must comply with the site validation requirements in ANSI C63.4–2014 (clause 5.4.4), and, for radiated emission measurements from 1 GHz to 40 GHz, the site validation requirements in ANSI C63.4–2014 (clause 5.5.1 a) 1)) apply. The Commission proposed to incorporate ANSI C63.25.1–2018 into the test site validation requirements of §2.948(d) of the Commission’s rules in order to provide an additional option for test site validation of radiated emission measurements from 1 GHz to 18 GHz.

As noted in the NPRM, the C63.25.1–2018 standard consolidates guidance from existing standards to provide test site validation procedures from 1 GHz to 18 GHz. For example, the C63.25.1–2018 standard includes a CISPR 16 method known as the site voltage standing wave ratio (SVSWR) approach to validate test sites for frequencies above 1 GHz, which measures responses between antennas while varying their distances. This method is included in the standard currently referenced in the Commission’s rules, ANSI C63.4–2014 (clause 5.5.1 a 1)). Additionally, C63.25.1–2018 introduces the option of using a new effective test validation method called time domain site validation (TDSV), the benefits of which are cited by ANSC C63 in the C63.25.1 Petition. The Commission tentatively concluded that incorporating C63.25.1–2018 in the Commission’s rules by reference would have the benefit of providing the availability of TDSV as an additional option, while continuing to allow use of the procedures currently described in §2.948(d) of the Commission’s rules for test site validation of radiated emission measurements from 1 GHz to 18 GHz.

While the Commission tentatively concluded that the entire standard should be incorporated by reference, it also asked whether any procedures or techniques included in ANSI C63.25.1–2018 would not be appropriate for demonstrating compliance with the Commission’s equipment authorization rules. Finally, because the Commission proposed to incorporate ANSI C63.25.1–2018 as an option to an already existing requirement, it tentatively concluded that there would be no need to designate a transition period.

Several commenters expressed support for adopting ANSI C63.25.1–2018 in full. Information Technology Industry Council, while suggesting that C63.25.1–2018 be applied immediately, also suggests that the Commission continue to accept measurements that reference C63.4–2014 for two years. Cisco Systems Inc. (Cisco) supports adopting the proposed references to ANSI C63.25.1–2018; however, it asks the Commission to make some specific clarifications regarding the application of the standard. Specifically, Cisco encourages the Commission to clarify that site voltage standing wave ratio (SVSWR) and time domain site validation (TDSV) are the only acceptable methods of site verification under ANSI C63.25.1–2018. Additionally, Cisco states that as both the SVSWR and TDSV validation methods require some calibration, ANSI C63.5–2017 does not appear to add any value as a reference. Thus, Cisco suggests that the FCC simply state that all appropriate devices (antennas, positioners, etc.) must be validated in a manner that ensures they satisfy the necessary characteristics defined by each method.

The Commission believes, and the record does not suggest otherwise, that the Commission correctly tentatively conclude that incorporating ANSI C63.25.1–2018 among the
procedures currently described in § 2.948(d) of the Commission’s rules would serve the public interest by providing useful options and potential benefits for test site validation of radiated emission measurements from 1 GHz to 18 GHz. As the Commission noted when discussing the C63.25.1 Petition, while the TDSV and SVSWR methods are similar in that both measure responses between antennas, TDSV does not require varying the distance between antennas, providing a reduction in the sensitivity of test results caused by small test setup changes at higher frequencies where the associated wavelengths are relatively short. This feature and other aspects of the TDSV method introduce process efficiency improvements that could result in less time to perform the validation. Accordingly, the Commission is incorporating the complete ANSI C63.25.1–2018 standard into § 2.948(d) of the rules. The Commission clarifies that incorporating ANSI C63.25.1–2018 into § 2.948(d), as amended herein, provides two options of test site validation procedures for radiated emission measurements from 1 GHz to 18 GHz: SVSWR and TDSV. The Commission is not adopting Cisco’s suggestion that the Commission remove references to ANSI C63.5–2017 from the version of the C63.25.1–2018 standard incorporated into the Commission’s rules. References to the use of ANSI C63.5–2017 for the calibration of measurement and reference antennas are prevalent among the ANSI standards already incorporated by reference in the Commission’s rules. Finally, the Commission sees no need to adopt a transition period for the use of ANSI C63.25.1–2018 as it includes the test site validation option provided by the previous ANSI C63.4–2014.


In the NPRM, in response to a petition filed by ANSC C63, the Commission proposed to incorporate by reference ANSI C63.10–2020, “American National Standard of Procedures for Compliance Testing of Unlicensed Wireless Devices, into the Commission’s rules to replace existing references to ANSI C63.10–2013. The ANSI C63.10–2020 standard was approved by ANSI on September 10, 2020, and updates the measurement procedures set forth in ANSI C63.10–2013, which is currently referenced in §§ 2.910, 2.950, 15.31, and 15.38 of the Commission’s rules. The standard addresses “the procedures for testing the compliance of a wide variety of unlicensed wireless transmitters . . . including, but not limited to, remote control and security unlicensed wireless devices, frequency hopping and direct sequence spread spectrum devices, anti-pilferage devices, cordless telephones, medical unlicensed wireless devices, Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U–NII) devices, intrusion detectors, unlicensed wireless devices operating on frequencies below 30 MHz, automatic vehicle identification systems, and other unlicensed wireless devices authorized by a radio regulatory authority.”

The Commission tentatively concluded that it would be appropriate to simply replace the existing standard references with references to the new standard, subject to a two-year or other appropriate transition period. The Commission asked whether any procedures or techniques included in the standard would not be appropriate for use in the context of demonstrating compliance with the Commission’s equipment authorization rules. Similarly, the Commission also asked which, if any, of the Commission rules that do not currently reference ANSI C63.10–2013 should reference ANSI C63.10–2020. Finally, the Commission asked whether a transition period during which either version of ANSI C63.10 could be used would be appropriate.

Several commentors support adopting the updated standard. National Technical Systems states that “it is assumed that if C63.4a is not adopted then adoption of ANSI C63.10–2020 would exclude the normative reference to ANSI C63.4a.” ITI supports the adoption of the standard in full, while suggesting that C63.10–2020 be applied immediately while accepting reference to C63.10–2013 for up to two years in order to “allow test labs and manufacturers adequate time to procure and complete necessary actions.” It also notes that products that were assessed and released in accordance with the previous standard should not be required to be retested to C63.10–2020 unless the product changes or needs an updated certification. Cisco, A2LA, and ANSI C63 support adopting the new standard in full and offer no further comment.

The new edition of ANSI C63.10–2020 not only provides updates to the methods in the standard but also adds new methods. The Commission finds that it is necessary at this time to update §§ 2.910, 2.950, 15.31(a)(3), and 15.38(g)(3) to incorporate by reference ANSI C63.10–2020. This update to the Commission’s rules will address advancements in compliance testing methods that have accompanied the growth of wireless devices and ensure the continued integrity of the relevant measurement data. With regard to the normative reference to ANSI C63.4–2017, the Commission does not find it necessary to exclude it. The Commission notes that C63.10–2020 refers to ANSI C63.4–2017 for 0.3 GHz to 1 GHz (NSA) test site validation procedures in lieu of the NSA validation methods contained in ANSI C63.4–2014. The C63.10–2020 standard includes ANSI C63.4–2017 in its list of normative references, in Clause 5.2 when specifying an appropriate radiated test site for performing the compliance measurements, and in Clause 6.5.2 when specifying permissible distances between antennas when performing radiated tests. The C63.10–2020 standard is a North American standard rather than a U.S. standard and thus accommodates both Canadian and U.S. regulations. Canada has already recognized ANSI C63.4–2017 in its regulations but, prior to this proceeding, the U.S. has not. The reference to ANSI C63.4–2017 in the standard contains a footnote reference to 47 CFR 15.31 in recognition that ANSI C63.4–2017 may not be adopted by the U.S. regulators. To accommodate the transition to this new standard, and as proposed in the NPRM and supported by ITI, the Commission will permit the use of either ANSI C63.10–2013 or ANSI C63.10–2020 for a period of two years following the effective date of the rules adopted in this Order. The record supports this time period as sufficiently reasonable for the parties to procure the necessary equipment and implement the required changes.

Other Standards

In addition to addressing new specific incorporation by reference proposals, the Commission in the NPRM made tentative proposals and sought to refresh the record obtained in response to the Standards Update Notice that was previously issued by OET. Further, the Commission made proposals intended to “clean up” the rules by addressing several obsolete references and asked whether any additional similar rules changes would be appropriate.

“General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories” (ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E))

Measurement data intended to demonstrate compliance with certain Commission requirements must be obtained from an accredited testing laboratory. Currently, §§ 2.910, 2.948, 2.949, 2.962, and 68.162 incorporate by reference ISO/IEC 17025:2005(E) for the

In the NPRM, the Commission proposed to incorporate by reference ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E) in its entirety, including Clause 8.1—Option A and Option B. Options A and B were specifically addressed in light of comments made in response to the Standards Update Notice. The Commission tentatively concluded that the flexibility of having both options merits that both options should be included when incorporating ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E) into the Commission’s rules. Additionally, in the NPRM, the Commission discussed issues related to the passage of time since the release of the Standards Update Notice, and noting the two year re-accreditation process, it tentatively proposed a two-year transition to the new standard instead of the originally proposed three-year period.

A2LA supports the updated standard and claims that it “provides a greater emphasis on impartiality, transparency, and the complaint processes;” “takes a process approach and is outcome-focused;” “is less prescriptive and less procedure-burdened;” and “provides laboratories greater flexibility as the standard is now underpinned with a risk-based approach to the processes.” A2LA began transitioning its organization to the new standard in November 2017 in order to meet the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation mandate requiring completion of the transition by June 2021. ITI, ANSI C63, and Cisco all support adopting the standard and using Options A and B for lab accreditation under ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E).

Additionally, Cisco welcomed any transition period up to, and including, the two-year period proposed by the Commission in the NPRM.

No party opposed the Commission’s proposal, and for the reasons stated in the NPRM and as supported by the record, the Commission continues to believe that adoption of the updated standard is in the public interest, and will provide greater transparency, procedural efficiency, and flexibility. The Commission therefore incorporates by reference ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E) into §§ 2.910, 2.948, 2.949, 2.950, 2.962, and 68.162 of the Commission’s rules.
Additional Updates

In the NPRM, the Commission noted that several part 2 rules incorporate references that have become outdated as a result of prior updates to standards that were phased in over specific transition periods—once the newer standards became the only valid procedure for compliance with the Commission’s rules, the prior references became irrelevant. Specifically, the Commission proposed to delete from § 2.910 of the Commission’s rules references to: ISO/IEC Guide 58:1993(E), “Calibration and testing laboratory accreditation systems—General requirements for operation and recognition,” First Edition 1993; ISO/IEC Guide 61:1996(E), “General requirements for assessment and accreditation of certification/registration bodies,” First Edition 1996; and ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996(E), “General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems.”

Additionally, the Commission proposed to delete the related transition periods provided in § 2.950 and make any necessary related administrative rule changes. The Commission also asked whether there were additional conforming or administrative updates to its rules and if any other rule modifications were needed, including updating other standards currently referenced in the rules or incorporating by reference additional standards not currently referenced in the rules.

In its comments, ITI noted that §§ 15.38(b) and 15.109(g) still reference CISPR 22 and requested that these references be updated to the latest edition of CISPR 32. ITI also recommends that a specific statement permitting grandfathering would benefit the industry, avoid confusion, and facilitate compliance. Cisco supports these additional updates. Additionally, ANSI C63 also points out that “the proposed amendment to Rule 2.910 references CISPR 16–1–4:2010–04, however, that version of the standard is out of date” and the rule “should reference the current version of the standard which is CISPR 16–1–4 2019+AMD:2020.”


Additionally, the Commission adopts the proposal to delete the related transition periods provided in § 2.950. The commenter recommendations to update additional references were not contemplated in the Commission’s proposal, and it therefore takes no action here.

Ordering Clauses

Accordingly, it is ordered, pursuant to the authority found in sections 4(i), 301, 302, and 303 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 154(i), 301, 302a, 303, that this Report and Order is hereby adopted.

It is further ordered that the amendments of parts 2, 15, 68, and 73 of the Commission’s rules as set forth in Appendix A are adopted, effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

It is further ordered that the Commission’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Reference Information Center, shall send a copy of this Report and Order, including the Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

It is further ordered that the Office of the Managing Director, Performance Evaluation and Records Management, shall send a copy of this Report and Order in a report to be sent to Congress and the Government Accountability Office pursuant to the Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Parts 2, 15, and 68

Communications equipment. Incorporation by reference.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Television.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dorch.

Secretary.

Final Rules

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission amends 47 CFR parts 2, 15, 68, and 73 as follows:

PART 2—FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS AND RADIO TREATY MATTERS; GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The authority citation for part 2 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 154, 302a, 303, and 336, unless otherwise noted.

2. Revise § 2.910 to read as follows:

§ 2.910 Incorporation by reference.

Certain material is incorporated by reference into this part with the approval of the Director of the Federal Register under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. To enforce any edition other than that specified in this section, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) must publish a document in the Federal Register and the material must be available to the public. All approved incorporation by reference (IBR) material is available for inspection at the FCC and at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Contact the FCC at the address indicated in 47 CFR 0.401(a), phone: (202) 418–0270. For information on the availability of this material at NARA, visit www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html or email fr.inspection@nara.gov. The material may be obtained from the following source(s):

(a) International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), IEC Central Office, 3, rue de Varembe, CH–1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland; email: inmail@iec.ch; website: www.iec.ch.


(2) [Reserved]

(b) Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), 3916 Ranchero Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108; phone: (800) 678–4333; email: stds-info@ieee.org; website: www.ieee.org.

(1) ANSI C63.4–2014, American National Standard for Methods of Measurement of Radio-Noise Emissions from Low-Voltage Electrical and Electronic Equipment in the Range of 9 kHz to 40 GHz. ANSI-approved June 13, 2014, Sections 5.4.4 (“Radiated emission test facilities—Site validation”) through 5.5 (“Radiated emission test facilities for frequencies above 1 GHz (1 GHz to 40 GHz”), copyright 2014; IBR approved for § 2.948(d).

(2) ANSI C63.4a–2017, American National Standard for Methods of Measurement of Radio-Noise Emissions from Low-Voltage Electrical and Electronic Equipment in the Range of 9 kHz to 40 GHz, Amendment 1: Test Site Validation, ANSI-approved September 15, 2017; IBR approved for § 2.948(d).


(4) ANSI C63.26–2015, American National Standard of Procedures for Compliance Testing of Transmitters Used in Licensed Radio Services, ANSI-
approved December 11, 2015; IBR approved for § 2.1041(b).

(c) International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Ch. de Blandonnet 8, CP 401, CH–1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland; phone: + 41 22 749 01 11; fax: + 41 22 749 09 47; email: central@iso.org; website: www.iso.org.

1) ISO/IEC 17011:2004(E), Conformity assessment—General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies, First Edition, 2004–09–01; IBR approved for §§ 2.946(e); 2.949(b); 2.960(c).

2) ISO/IEC 17025:2005(E), General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories, Second Edition, 2005–05–15; IBR approved for §§ 2.946(e); 2.949(b); 2.950(a); 2.962(c) and (d).

3) ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E), General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories, Third Edition, November 2017; IBR approved for §§ 2.946(e); 2.949(b); 2.950(a); 2.962(c) and (d).

4) ISO/IEC 17065:2012(E), Conformity assessment—Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services, First Edition, 2012–09–15; IBR approved for §§ 2.960(b); 2.962(b), (c), (d), (f), and (g).

Note 1 to § 2.910: The standards listed in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section are also available from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 West 43rd Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036; phone (212) 642–4980; email info@ansi.org; website: https://webstore.ansi.org/.

3. Amend § 2.946 by revising paragraph (d) to read as follows:

§ 2.946 Measurement facilities. *(d) When the measurement method used requires the testing of radiated emissions on a validated test site, the site attenuation must comply with either: the requirements of ANSI C63.4a–2017 (incorporated by reference, see § 2.910) or the requirements of sections 5.4.4 through 5.5 of ANSI C63.4–2014 (incorporated by reference, see § 2.910).

(1) Measurement facilities used to make radiated emission measurements from 30 MHz to 1 GHz must comply with the site validation requirements in either ANSI C63.4a–2017 or ANSI C63.4–2014 (clause 5.4.4).

(2) Measurement facilities used to make radiated emission measurements from 1 GHz to 18 GHz must comply with the site validation requirements of ANSI C63.25.1–2018 (incorporated by reference, see § 2.910);

(3) Measurement facilities used to make radiated emission measurements from 18 GHz to 40 GHz must comply with the site validation requirement of ANSI C63.4–2014 (clause 5.5.1 a) 1)), such that the site validation criteria called out in CISPR 16–1–4:2010–04 (incorporated by reference, see § 2.910) is met.

(4) Test site revalidation must occur on an interval not to exceed three years.

4. Revise § 2.950 to read as follows:

§ 2.950 Transition periods.

(a) Prior to October 30, 2025, a prospective or accredited testing laboratory or telecommunication certification body must be capable of meeting the requirements and conditions of ISO/IEC 17025:2005(E) (incorporated by reference, see § 2.910) or ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E) (incorporated by reference, see § 2.910). On or after October 30, 2025, a prospective or accredited testing laboratory or telecommunication certification body must be capable of meeting the requirements and conditions of ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E) (incorporated by reference, see § 2.910).

(b) All radio frequency devices that were authorized under the verification or Declaration of Conformity procedures prior to November 2, 2017, must continue to meet all requirements associated with the applicable procedure that were in effect immediately prior to November 2, 2017. If any changes are made to such devices after November 2, 2018, the requirements associated with the Supplier’s Declaration of Conformity apply.

PART 15—RADIO FREQUENCY DEVICES

5. The authority citation for part 15 continues to read as follows:


6. Amend § 15.31 by revising paragraph (a)(3) to read as follows:

§ 15.31 Measurement standards.

(a) * * *

(3) Other intentional radiators must be measured for compliance using the following procedure: ANSI C63.10–2020 (incorporated by reference, see § 15.38).

* * * * *

7. Amend § 15.37 by adding paragraph (s) to read as follows:

§ 15.37 Transition provisions for compliance with this part.

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PART 73—RADIO BROADCAST SERVICES

11. The authority citation for part 73 continues to read as follows:


12. Amend § 73.1660 by revising Note 1 to paragraph (a)(1) to read as follows:

§ 73.1660 Acceptability of broadcast transmitters.

* * * * *

Note 1 to paragraph (a)(1): The verification procedure has been replaced by Supplier’s Declaration of Conformity. AM, FM, and TV transmitters previously authorized under subpart J of part 2 of this chapter may remain in use. See § 2.950 of this chapter.

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