



Federal Communications Commission
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Office of Communications Business Opportunities

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Greetings from the Federal Communications Commission.

The FCC's Office of Communications Business Opportunities (OCBO) advises the Commission on issues, rulemakings, and policies that affect small businesses. OCBO promotes diversity, competition, and innovation in the provision and ownership of telecommunications and information services by supporting policies that create opportunities for small telecommunications businesses, as well as policies that increase affordable access to communications technology for all small businesses.

To make it easy to engage with the FCC, OCBO publishes a monthly digest with updates and reminders that may be of interest to small business stakeholders. This list is not comprehensive of all FCC deadlines, programs, and initiatives, but does represent items that OCBO thinks might be important to the communities that you serve.

Please reach out to OCBO at OCBOinfo@fcc.gov with any questions, or to be added to our distribution list. A copy of this news digest is also available at www.fcc.gov/OCBO.

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Important News and Updates

For daily news from the FCC, sign up for the FCC's Daily Digest at FCC.gov/daily-digest

FCC Chair Releases 'Firsts Conversations' Podcast Series

On November 13, 2024, Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel released her new podcast series: "FIRSTS Conversations." The nine-part speaker series uplifts leaders who cleared the path for others or launched an innovative technology that changed how we operate and live our modern day lives. All podcast episodes are accessible at fcc.gov/firsts and also available to stream on [Apple](#).

FCC Revises Satellite System Spectrum Sharing Rules

The Agency voted on November 15, 2024 to revise its satellite spectrum sharing rules to promote market entry, regulatory certainty, and spectrum efficiency. The [Report and Order](#) refines the Commission's non-geostationary satellite orbit, fixed-satellite service (NGSO FSS) spectrum sharing regime that provides clarity regarding sharing between systems licensed in different processing rounds, granting primary spectrum access to systems approved earlier, while enabling new entrants to participate in an established, cooperative spectrum sharing structure.

Broadband Data Task Force Releases Fifth Version of the National Broadband Map

The Broadband Data Task Force, together with the Office of Economics and Analytics, announced that the fifth version of the National Broadband Map was released on November 15, 2024. The Map is available at <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov>.

Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Encourages Communications Service Providers to Implement Important Network Reliability Best Practices

A Public Notice of November 20, 2024, reminds communications service providers of the importance of implementing relevant industry-accepted best practices.

FCC Adopts Rules to Combat Spoofed Robocalls by Strengthening Requirements for Third-Party Authentication Solutions

The November 21, 2024, adopted [Report and Order](#) establishes rules for the use of third parties in the caller ID authentication process while setting clear limits to ensure service providers remain responsible and accountable for meeting the requirements set forth by the STIR/SHAKEN technical standards.

FCC Adopts Final Rules for Program Originating FM Boosters

The Agency announced on November 21, 2024 the adoption of final rules to allow FM booster stations to originate programming on a limited basis. The [Second Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration](#) establishes service rules that will enable FM and low power (LPFM) broadcasters to use FM booster stations to originate program content on a non-experimental basis. The action also builds upon an April 2024 [Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) in the proceeding.

FCC Adopts 'C-V2X' Auto Safety Spectrum Rules

By release of the [Second Report and Order](#) on November 22, 2024, the Commission finalized rules concerning band usage, message prioritization, channel bandwidth, communications zones, power for RSUs and OBUs, and OOB limits for C-V2X operations, along with other transition issues.

FCC Modifies Emissions Limits for the 24 GHz Band

In the [Report and Order](#) released December 2, 2024, the FCC revised rules for the 24.25-24.45 GHz and 24.75-25.25 GHz bands to implement certain decisions made in the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2019 (WRC-19).

FCC Selects Lead Administrator for Cybersecurity Label Program

On December 4, 2024, the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau announced the selection of UL LLC (UL Solutions) to serve as both the Lead Administrator and a Cybersecurity Label Administrator (CLA) of the [agency's voluntary cybersecurity labeling program](#) for wireless consumer [Internet of Things \(IoT\) products](#). The Bureau finds that UL Solutions meets the Commission's program criteria and requirements.

Open Comment and Data Collection Periods

View all FCC proposed rulemakings at [FCC.gov/proposed-rulemakings](https://www.fcc.gov/proposed-rulemakings)

FCC Launches First Comprehensive Review of Submarine Cable Licensing Rules in Decades

(OI Docket No. 24-523; MD Docket No. 24-524) On November 22, 2024, the Commission released a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) undertaking its first comprehensive review of its submarine cable rules since 2001. Comments are due 30 days after date of publication in the Federal Register and reply comments are due 60 days after date of publication in the Federal Register. An update will be provided when the exact comment deadlines are announced.

Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Compliance and Comment Dates for the 988 Georouting Proceeding (WC Docket No. 18-336)

By announcement of November 21, 2024, nationwide Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) providers must comply with the 988 georouting call rules adopted in the *988 Georouting Order* no later than January 13, 2025, and all CMRS providers must comply no later than December 14, 2026. In the Third FNPRM, the Commission proposed and sought comment on a requirement that covered text providers support georouting to ensure that the 988 Lifeline may route covered 988 text messages to the appropriate local crisis center. Comments are due on or before December 20, 2024, and reply comments are due on or before January 9, 2025. Complete comment filing instructions are set forth in the Third FNPRM.

Wireline Competition Bureau Reminds Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Support Recipients of Milestone Notification Requirement. (AU Docket No. 20-34; WC Docket No. 10-90; WC Docket No. 19-126)

A Public Notice was issued on December 2, 2024 providing guidance to Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) support recipients regarding the obligation of any recipient to notify the Bureau in accordance with section 54.806(c)(2) if it believes it cannot meet the third-year service milestone, which requires building out to at least 40% of each support recipient's RDOF locations. Any support recipient that will not meet its 40% buildout requirement by the end of its third year of support must notify the Wireline Competition Bureau within 10 business days of the third-year service milestone deadline and provide information explaining this expected deficiency. For RDOF carriers authorized in 2021, that date is Wednesday, January 15, 2025, and for RDOF carriers authorized in 2022, that date is Thursday, January 15, 2026.

Chairwoman Rosenworcel Announces Agency Action to Require Telecom Carriers to Secure Their Networks

On December 5, 2024, Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel proposed urgent action to safeguard the nation's communications systems from real and present cybersecurity threats, including from state-sponsored cyber actors from the People's Republic of China. The Chairwoman has also shared a draft Declaratory Ruling with her fellow commissioners. If adopted, the Declaratory Ruling would take effect immediately. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, if adopted, would seek comment on cybersecurity risk management requirements for a wide range of communications providers. The proposal would also seek comment on additional ways to strengthen the cybersecurity posture of communications systems and services.

The Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Establish Deadline For 4.9 GHz Public Safety Licensees to Provide Granular Licensing Data. (WP Docket No. 07-100)

The FCC's, PSHSB and WTB announced, December 9, 2024, that the Commission has received approval from OMB to collect granular licensing data from incumbent licensees in the 4.9 GHz (4940–4990 MHz) band. Incumbent licensees in the 4.9 GHz band are given until June 9, 2025 to submit the required data, with respect to each of its licenses, into the Universal Licensing System.

Upcoming FCC Events

Please visit [FCC.gov/Events](https://www.fcc.gov/events) for a complete FCC event Calendar

Third Meeting of the Ninth Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council

The Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council IX will meet on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, beginning at 1:00 pm EST, at the FCC, 45 L Street, N.E., Washington, D.C., and via video conference call. The CSRIC IX meeting will also be streamed via live feed at <https://www.fcc.gov/live>.

FCC 2025 Open Commission Meeting

The FCC will hold its first meeting of 2025 on January 15, in the Commission Meeting Room at, 45 L Street, N.E., Washington, D.C, commencing at 10:30 a.m.

Compliance Guides for Small Businesses

View all FCC Small Entity Compliance Guides (SECGs) at [FCC.gov/general/compliance-guides-small-businesses](https://www.fcc.gov/general/compliance-guides-small-businesses)

Amendments to Part 9 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Facilitating Implementation of Next Generation 911 Services (NG911). (DA-24-1138)

The above titled SECG was published on November 14, 2024. In the [Report and Order](#), the Commission took steps that will advance the nationwide transition to Next Generation 911 (NG911).

Wireless Emergency Alerts; Amendments to Part 11 of the Commission's Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System. (DA-24-1140)

The above titled SECG was published on November 14, 2024. The Commission adopted rules in the [Third Report and Order](#) to empower alert originators to enhance the utility of Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) as an alerting tool, making WEA more accessible and enabling WEA to provide more personalized alerts.

Resilient Networks; Amendment to Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Disruptions to Communications. (DA-24-1153)

The above titled SECG was published on November 19, 2024. In the [Order on Reconsideration](#), the FCC addresses the issues raised by the Cellular Telephone Industries Association and the Competitive Carriers Association in response to the Commission's [2022 Resilient Networks Report and Order](#) adopting the Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative (MDRI).

Authorizing Permissive Use of the "Next Generation" Broadcast Television Standard. (DA-24-1186)

The above titled SECG was published on November 26, 2024. The Guide summarizes rules and technological standards the adopted in *Authorizing Permissive Use of the "Next Generation" Broadcast Television Standard*, [Second Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration](#), released June 16, 2020, and *Authorizing Permissive Use of the "Next Generation" Broadcast Television Standard*, [Third Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), released June 23, 2023.

Modernizing and Expanding Access to the 70/80/90 GHz Bands. (DA-24-1187)

The above titled SECG was published on November 26, 2024. In the [Report and Order](#) adopted January

24, 2024, the Commission updated and added to its rules for the 71–76 GHz, 81–86 GHz, 92–94 GHz, and 94.1–95 GHz bands, thereby furthering its long-standing goals of fostering innovation in provisioning broadband services and meeting the nation’s rapidly increasing demand for broadband services.

[Internet of Things Labeling Program, Cybersecurity Labeling Administrator and Lead Administrator Application Filing Window](#). (DA-24-1239)

The above titled SECG was published on December 10, 2024. The [September 2024 Public Notice](#) announced a 15-business day filing window for applications from entities seeking designation by the FCC as the Lead Administrator or Cybersecurity Label Administrator (CLA) in support of the Commission’s [voluntary cybersecurity labeling program](#) for consumer wireless IoT products (IoT Labeling Program).

Partner News and Resources

Please visit the [FCC Cybersecurity](#) and [CISA.gov](#) for additional Cybersecurity News

[Phishing-Resistant Multi-Factor Authentication Success Story: USDA’s FIDO Implementation](#)

On November 20, 2024, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) published the above titled, [Report](#). The report details how USDA successfully implemented phishing-resistant authentication and key recommendations that can help other organizations do the same. For more information, read the [blog](#) which amplifies the report and benefits of Fast IDentity Online Implementation (FIDO) authentication, and see [More than a Password](#) on CISA.gov.

[Safeguarding Our Critical Infrastructure](#)

For November’s celebration of National Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, as the National Coordinator for Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience, released [NEW](#) guidance to assist critical infrastructure owners and operators to detect and mitigate efforts by foreign intelligence entities to disrupt U.S. critical infrastructure.

[CISA Releases De-escalation Action Guide](#)

On December 10, 2024, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency announced the release of a new resource titled, [De-escalation Action Guide](#), which is a companion product to the [De-escalation Series](#). This new resource consolidates the existing De-escalation Series into a single, easily accessible product. The Action Guide provides organizations with strategies for empowering staff and community members to recognize, assess, de-escalate, and report suspicious behaviors that may indicate a potential threat to critical infrastructure.

[Internet-Exposed HMIs Pose Cybersecurity Risks to Water and Wastewater Systems](#)

On December 13, 2024, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a [fact sheet](#) providing mitigations and resources for the water and wastewater systems (WWS) sector using human machine interfaces (HMIs) to limit exposure on the internet and secure them against malicious cyber activity. CISA and EPA encourage WWS organizations to review the fact sheet, and implement the recommended mitigations and actions.