

US FCC Introduces New Equipment Authorization Approval Procedures for Imported Radio Frequency Devices

The requirement for radio frequency equipment importers in the United States to submit an FCC Form 740 has been lifted as of November 2, 2017. As such, it is no longer required to file information related to the importation with the FCC. But the device being imported is still subject to equipment authorization by the FCC in accordance with the appropriate approval procedures. The summary below may help to determine the specific type of equipment authorization that applies to the device.

Equipment type	Example	Applicable equipment authorization procedure
Equipment that consists of only a radio transmitter	Remote control transmitters, land mobile radio transmitters and wireless medical telemetry transmitters	Certification
Equipment that only contains digital circuitry (does not contain a radio transmitter)	Computer peripherals, microwave ovens, consumer ISM equipment, switching power supplies, LED light bulbs, radio receivers and TV interface devices	Supplier's Declaration of Conformity (SDoC) or Certification
Equipment that is a combination of radio transmitters and digital circuitry	Mobile phones, wireless local area networking equipment, notebook computers and tablet computers	Both SDoC and Certification

For SDoC, an importer, who must be located in the United States, is not required to file an equipment authorization application with the FCC or an FCC-recognized Telecommunication Certification Body, but must ensure the equipment complies with the appropriate technical standards by providing a valid test report and other information demonstrating compliance with the rules upon request by the FCC. Equipment authorized under SDoC may be labeled with the logo depicted to the right on a voluntary basis. The use of the logo on the equipment, however, does not alleviate the requirement to provide the necessary compliance information.



There is a transition period of one year from the date this new rule was implemented. Radio frequency devices eligible for authorization under the old procedures (verification or Declaration of Conformity) that were in effect before November 2, 2017 may continue to be authorized until November 2, 2018 under the appropriate procedures.

As an FCC-recognized accredited testing laboratory, STC is capable of performing testing on radio frequency devices seeking authorization under the Certification and SDoC procedures.

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