



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

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MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS FOR INFORMATION  
WARFARE  
DIRECTOR, COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
COMPUTERS (C4)

SUBJECT: Spectrum Supportability Policy for Mission-Critical Unlicensed Devices

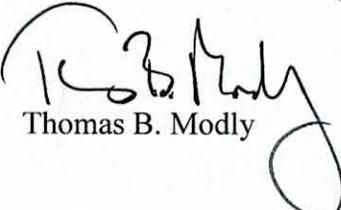
- References:
- (a) Glossary of Defense Acquisition Acronyms and Terms, available at <https://www.dau.mil/glossary/Pages/Glossary.aspx>
  - (b) 47 CFR Part 300, Manual of Regulations and Procedures for Federal Radio Frequency Management, Annex K - Technical Standards for Federal Non-Licensed Devices
  - (c) 47 CFR Part 15 - Radio Frequency Devices
  - (d) SECNAVINST 2400.1B "Electromagnetic Spectrum Policy and Management," 20 May 2019

This memorandum establishes spectrum supportability policy for mission critical spectrum-dependent unlicensed devices. Per reference (a), a mission-critical system is defined as: "A system whose operational effectiveness and operational suitability are essential to successful completion or to aggregate residual combat capability. If this system fails, the mission likely will not be completed. Such a system can be an auxiliary or supporting system as well as a primary mission system."

For federal or military operation use, an unlicensed spectrum-dependent system or device must comply with reference (b) and select portions of reference (c). Unlicensed devices are typically consumer electronics such as Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, or other wireless technologies available for general public operation. Some unlicensed devices are not authorized for federal or military use. To determine authorized use, users must provide the device's FCC ID number to local installation spectrum management personnel and/or fleet spectrum managers, who will verify the device complies with reference (b) prior to procurement. Unlicensed devices must not be modified to alter their electromagnetic signature. This includes, but is not limited to, alterations to the antenna or power. Usage restrictions, such as indoor operations only, must also be obeyed.

The use of unlicensed spectrum-dependent devices in mission critical applications is discouraged, as they must cease operation if they interfere with licensed devices and must accept any interference received, including interference causing undesirable impact. Those choosing to employ unlicensed devices in mission critical operations must first comply with all spectrum supportability requirements, including developing an approved spectrum supportability risk assessment and obtaining equipment certification and frequency assignment, per reference (d).

This policy will be incorporated into future versions of reference (d).

  
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