

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

42 CFR Parts 488 and 489

[CMS-3255-N]

Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Survey, Certification and Enforcement Procedures; Extension of Comment Period

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of the comment period.

SUMMARY: This notice extends the comment period for the Survey, Certification and Enforcement Procedures proposed rule, which was published in the April 5, 2013 *Federal Register* (78 FR 20564 through 20581). In the proposed rule, we proposed to revise the survey, certification, and enforcement procedures related to CMS oversight of national accreditation organizations (AOs). These revisions would implement certain provisions under the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA). The proposed revisions would also clarify and strengthen our oversight of AOs that apply for, and are granted, recognition and approval of an accreditation program in accordance with the Social Security Act. The comment period for the proposed rule, which would have ended on June 4, 2013, is extended to July 5, 2013.

DATES: The comment period for the proposed rule published in the April 5, 2013 *Federal Register* (78 FR 20564 through 20581) is extended to July 5, 2013.

ADDRESSES: In commenting, please refer to file code CMS-3255-P. Because of staff and resource limitations, we cannot accept comments by facsimile (FAX) transmission.

You may submit comments in one of four ways (please choose only one of the ways listed):

1. You may submit electronic comments on this regulation to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the "Submit a comment" instructions.

2. *By regular mail.* You may mail written comments to the following address only: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: CMS-3255-P, P.O. Box 8016, Baltimore, MD 21244-8016.

Please allow sufficient time for mailed comments to be received before the close of the comment period.

3. *By express or overnight mail.* You may send written comments to the following address only: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: CMS-3255-P, Mail Stop C4-26-05, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

4. *By hand or courier.* If you prefer, you may deliver (by hand or courier) your written comments before the close of the comment period to either of the following addresses: A. For delivery in Washington, DC—Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Room 445-G, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20201.

(Because access to the interior of the Hubert H. Humphrey Building is not readily available to persons without Federal government identification, commenters are encouraged to leave their comments in the CMS drop slots located in the main lobby of the building. A stamp-in clock is available for persons wishing to retain a proof of filing by stamping in and retaining an extra copy of the comments being filed.)

b. For delivery in Baltimore, MD—Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

If you intend to deliver your comments to the Baltimore address, please call telephone number (410) 786-7195 in advance to schedule your arrival with one of our staff members.

Comments mailed to the addresses indicated as appropriate for hand or courier delivery may be delayed and received after the comment period.

Submission of comments on paperwork requirements. You may submit comments on this document's paperwork requirements by following the instructions at the end of the "Collection of Information Requirements" section in this document.

For information on viewing public comments, see the beginning of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cindy Melanson, (410) 786-0310; Patricia Chmielewski, (410) 786-6899; or Marilyn Dahl, (410) 786-8665.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the April 5, 2013 *Federal Register* (78 FR 20564 through 20581), we published the Survey, Certification and Enforcement Procedures proposed rule that proposed to revise the survey, certification, and enforcement procedures related to CMS oversight of national accreditation organizations (AOs). These revisions

would implement certain provisions under MIPPA. The proposed revisions would also clarify and strengthen our oversight of AOs that apply for, and are granted, recognition and approval of an accreditation program in accordance with the Social Security Act.

Because of the scope of the requested information and inquiries received from several industry and professional organizations/associations regarding the need for additional time to respond to our request, we are extending the comment period until July 5, 2013.

Dated: May 17, 2013.

Marilyn Tavenner,

Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. 2013-12462 Filed 5-23-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 27

[GN Docket No. 12-268; DA 13-1157]

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Seeks To Supplement the Record on the 600 MHz Band Plan

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Commission's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau seeks further comment on how certain band plan approaches can best accommodate market variation, particularly in markets where available spectrum is constrained. Although the Commission continues to consider all band plan proposals in the record, this document seeks additional comment on certain variations of the "Down from 51" band plan framework in order to develop a more robust record on these concepts.

DATES: Submit comments on or before June 14, 2013. Submit reply comments on or before June 28, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street SW., Washington, DC 20554. You may submit comments, identified by GN Docket No. 12-268, DA 13-1157, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Federal Communications Commission's Web site:* <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *People with Disabilities:* Contact the FCC to request reasonable

accommodations (accessible format documents, sign language interpreters, CART, etc.) by email: FCC504@fcc.gov or phone: (202) 418-0530 or TTY: (202) 418-0432.

For detailed instructions for submitting comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Malmud at 202-418-0006, or via email at Paul.Malmud@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's supplemental public notice on the 600 MHz Band Plan, GN Docket No. 12-268, DA 13-1157, released on May 17, 2013. The full text of this document is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street SW., Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554. The complete text may be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc. (BCPI), Portals II, 445 12th Street SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, (202) 488-5300, facsimile (202) 488-5563, TTY (202) 488-5562, or via email at fcc@bcpiweb.com. The complete text is also available on the Commission's Web site at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachment/DA_13-1157A1doc. Alternative formats (computer diskette, large print, audio cassette, and Braille) are available by contacting Brian Millin at (202) 418-7426, TTY (202) 418-7365, or via email to bmillin@fcc.gov.

Pursuant to §§ 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates indicated on the first page of this document. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121 (1998).

- *Electronic Filers:* Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/>.

- For ECFS filers, generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of the proceeding, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or

rulemaking numbers. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet email. To get filing instructions for email comments, commenters should send an email to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply.

- *Paper Filers:* Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, commenters must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number.

- Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street SW., Washington, DC 20554.

- All hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary must be delivered to FCC Headquarters at 445 12th Street SW., Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554. The filing hours are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes and boxes must be disposed of before entering the building.

- Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743.

- U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 445 12th Street SW., Washington, DC 20554.

- Parties shall also serve one copy with the Commission's copy contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc. (BCPI), Portals II, 445 12th Street SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, (202) 488-5300, or via email to fcc@bcpiweb.com.

- *People with Disabilities.* To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an email to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (TTY).

- *Availability of Documents.* Comments, reply comments, and *ex parte* submissions will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Center, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street SW., CY-

A257, Washington, DC 20554. These documents will also be available via ECFS. Documents will be available electronically in ASCII, Microsoft Word, and/or Adobe Acrobat.

Summary

I. Introduction

1. In *Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions* 77 FR 69934 November 21, 2012 (NPRM), the Commission sought public comment on creating a 600 MHz wireless band plan from the spectrum made available for flexible use through the broadcast television incentive auction. The Commission identified five key policy goals that would provide the framework for adopting a wireless band plan: Utility, certainty, interchangeability, quantity and interoperability. The majority of commenters support many features of the proposed band plan framework that aim to achieve these goals, but express a broader range of views on how and where to configure the uplink and downlink blocks in the band plan. To evaluate and quantify the technical tradeoffs associated with configuring the uplink and downlink bands, the Commission hosted a public workshop. At the workshop, stakeholders discussed a variety of technical aspects to consider in creating a 600 MHz wireless band plan, including mobile antenna issues, harmonics interference, intermodulation, and high power services in the duplex gap.

2. As discussed in the workshop, many stakeholders support the "Down from 51" band plan proposal—or a variation of it—in which the Commission would clear broadcast television channels starting at channel 51 and expand downward: The uplink band would begin at channel 51 (698 MHz), followed by a duplex gap, and then the downlink band. The workshop made clear that support for a Down from 51 band plan framework is primarily based on concerns over high power services in the duplex gap and antenna design issues.

3. The Down from 51 proposals in the record generally limit the amount of market variation that can be achieved, however. Specifically, most of these proposals are targeted at repurposing a specific amount of paired spectrum nationwide, and provide limited options for how to offer less spectrum in constrained markets, or additional spectrum in individual markets, and only under certain scenarios. In the NPRM, the Commission expressed a strong interest in establishing a band

plan framework that is flexible enough to accommodate market variation, *i.e.*, offering varying amounts of spectrum in different geographic locations, depending on the spectrum available. Further, although the majority of commenters argue that the Commission should prioritize offering paired spectrum blocks over unpaired blocks, some variations of the Down from 51 band plan limit the amount of paired spectrum that can be offered. Under the policy framework set forth by the Commission, the Down from 51 approaches in the record appear to favor certainty of the operating environment over the utility of providing the maximum amount of spectrum through flexibility to offer a greater quantity of spectrum in geographic areas where more spectrum is available.

4. In the *NPRM*, the Commission sought comment on a number of band plan proposals. Emphasizing its goals of balancing flexibility with certainty while maximizing the amount of spectrum we can make available for wireless broadband services in each geographic area, the Commission recognized that other band plans are possible that may achieve the Commission's goals. Consequently, the Commission sought comment on the band plan approaches described in the *NPRM*, any variations on those approaches, and also invited commenters to propose their own band plans. To advance the Commission's goal of maintaining flexibility to offer different amounts of spectrum in different geographic markets, we seek further comment on how certain Down from 51 band plan approaches can best address the potential for market variation, particularly in markets where available spectrum is constrained. Although the Commission continues to consider all band plan proposals in the record, we seek additional comment on certain variations of the Down from 51 band plan, as described below, to develop a more robust record on these concepts. We invite commenters to discuss the relative merits of all of the band plan proposals and their variations in the record. Further, we also seek comment on which band plan other countries would be most likely to adopt to allow for global harmonization of the 600 MHz spectrum.

II. "Down From 51 Reversed" Band Plan Variation

5. We seek comment on a variation of the Down from 51 band plan in which we reverse the configuration of the uplink and downlink blocks ("Down from 51 Reversed"). Under a Down from 51 Reversed band plan, the Commission

would clear broadcast television channels starting at channel 51 and expand downward: the downlink band would begin after a guard band at channel 51 (698 MHz), followed by a duplex gap, and then the uplink band. The uplink band could extend past channel 37, either nationwide or in certain markets, depending on the amount of repurposed spectrum.

6. As discussed in the *NPRM*, the Commission proposed a structure to keep the downlink spectrum band consistent nationwide while allowing variations in the amount of uplink spectrum available in any geographic area to promote interoperability and accommodate market variation. By reversing the uplink and downlink bands, the Down from 51 Reversed band plan framework can maintain a uniform downlink band nationwide and allow for market variation in the amount of uplink spectrum offered without placing high power services in the duplex gap.

7. We seek comment on the Down from 51 Reversed band plan variation. Are there any special considerations or rules that would be necessary in implementing this approach? We also seek comment on technical issues associated with the Down from 51 Reversed band plan. Specifically, we request comment on how this band plan approach would affect the ability of wireless broadband providers to utilize the 600 MHz band effectively, particularly in terms of network and device design. Further, we seek comment on whether the Down from 51 Reversed approach would provide greater flexibility with respect to market variation than other Down from 51 band plan proposals. We ask commenters to discuss the tradeoffs associated with accommodating market variation under the Down from 51 Reversed band plan and the other band plan proposals in the record.

8. *Guard Bands*. Like other band plan proposals, in a Down from 51 Reversed band plan, we must implement guard bands to ensure all spectrum blocks are as technically and functionally interchangeable as possible. Specifically, we would need to implement a guard band at the top of the 600 MHz wireless band between the 600 MHz downlink band and the lower 700 MHz uplink band to protect these services from interfering with one another. Similarly, we would need to implement a guard band at the lower end of the 600 MHz wireless band between the 600 MHz uplink band and broadcast television stations. We seek comment on the appropriate size of the guard bands under this proposal.

9. *Channel 37*. Under a Down from 51 Reversed band plan, it is possible that 600 MHz wireless operations could be adjacent to radio astronomy (RA) and wireless medical telemetry services (WMTS) operations in channel 37, conceivably on both sides, if the 600 MHz uplink band extends below channel 37. Would the Down from 51 Reversed band plan require additional measures to protect existing channel 37 operations? If so, how would these measures affect the ability of wireless providers to utilize the adjacent spectrum? We also seek comment on a proposal to apply the spectral mask for TV white space devices (47 CFR 15.709(c)(4)) to prevent interference and protect existing channel 37 WMTS operations from interference if mobile uplink operations (rather than wireless downlink operations) are on both sides of channel 37. Further, in the event that the Commission can repurpose more than 84 megahertz of spectrum, yielding an uplink band that would extend below channel 37, wireless uplink operations will be both above and below channel 37. If this occurs, the duplex spacing for paired blocks with uplink blocks below channel 37 would be greater than for paired blocks with uplink blocks above channel 37 because wireless operations cannot operate on channel 37. We seek comment on the effects of this variable duplex spacing, and how this affects network and/or device design. We seek comment on other issues relating to existing channel 37 operations under the Down from 51 Reversed band plan approach.

III. Down From 51 With TV In the Duplex Gap In Constrained Markets

10. We also seek comment on how the Commission should address constrained markets where less spectrum is available if it adopts a version of the Down from 51 band plan that has been more generally discussed in the record and the workshop, with the 600 MHz uplink band beginning at channel 51, adjacent to the 700 MHz band uplink band. Specifically, should the Commission place television stations in the duplex gap in more constrained markets? Although we recognize that some commenters have concerns about allowing high power services to operate in the duplex gap, is this less problematic if it occurs only in certain markets? As compared to a Down from 51 Reversed band plan, which alternative would allow the Commission to offer as many paired spectrum blocks as possible? Which band plan approach is preferable if the Commission decides to accommodate market variation?

IV. Down From 51 TDD Approach

11. In addition, we seek further comment on using a Down from 51 band plan framework with unpaired TDD blocks (“Down from 51 TDD”). Under a Down from 51 TDD band plan, the band would begin after a guard band at channel 51 (698 MHz) and expand downward, followed by a guard band between wireless operations and broadcast television operations at the lower edge of the 600 MHz wireless band. As in the other Down from 51 band plan proposals, the band could extend past channel 37, either nationwide or in certain markets, depending on the amount of repurposed spectrum, which may also require the Commission to protect existing channel 37 operations.

12. Although the Down from 51 TDD band plan would require guard bands at both ends of the 600 MHz wireless band, no duplex gap is necessary. Further, the Down from 51 TDD band plan would allow for market variation without placing television stations in the duplex gap. Although a TDD band plan could not support market variation through variable uplink, it could support market variation through an alternative approach that aligns the amount of repurposed spectrum in constrained markets with the expected filter configurations.

13. We seek additional comment on this Down from 51 TDD band plan. Specifically, we seek comment on the tradeoffs associated with implementing the Down from 51 TDD band plan as compared to the other Down from 51 band plan variations that also accommodate market variation. Which band plan provides the most flexibility while maintaining the best certainty about the operating environment?

V. Procedural Matters

14. *Ex Parte Presentations—Permit-But-Disclose Proceeding:* This matter shall be treated as a “permit-but-disclose” proceeding in accordance with the *ex parte* rules. Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentations must contain summaries of the substance of the presentations and not merely a listing of the subjects discussed. More than a one- or two-sentence description of the views and arguments presented generally is required. Other requirements pertaining to oral and written presentations are set forth in § 1.1206(b) of the rules.

15. *Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:* The NPRM in this proceeding included an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA) pursuant to

5 U.S.C. 603, exploring the potential impact of the Commission’s proposal on small entities. The matters discussed in this notice do not modify in any way the IRFA we previously issued.

Federal Communications Commission.

Ruth Milkman,

Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

[FR Doc. 2013–12484 Filed 5–23–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

49 CFR Part 369

[Docket No. FMCSA–2012–0020]

RIN–2126–AB48

Rescission of Quarterly Financial Reporting Requirements

AGENCY: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM); request for comments.

SUMMARY: FMCSA proposes to eliminate the quarterly financial reporting requirements for certain for-hire motor carriers of property (Form QFR) and for-hire motor carriers of passengers (Form MP–1). This paperwork burden can be removed without an adverse impact on safety or the Agency’s ability to maintain effective commercial regulatory oversight over the for-hire trucking and passenger-carrying industries.

DATES: You may submit comments by July 23, 2013.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by docket number FMCSA–2012–0020 using any one of the following methods:

(1) *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

(2) *Fax:* 202–493–2251.

(3) *Mail:* Docket Management Facility (M–30), U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590–0001.

(4) *Hand delivery:* Same as mail address above, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202–366–9329.

To avoid duplication, please use only one of these four methods. See the “Public Participation and Comments” portion of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below for instructions on submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this proposal, email or call Ms. Vivian Oliver, Office of Research and Information Technology, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE., Washington, DC 20590; Telephone 202–366–2974; email Vivian.Oliver@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Participation and Comments

If you would like to participate in this rulemaking, you may submit comments and related materials. All comments received will be posted, without change, to <http://www.regulations.gov> and will include any personal information you have provided.

Submitting Comments

If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this rulemaking (FMCSA–2012–0020), indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation. You may submit your comments and material online or by fax, mail, or hand delivery, but please use only one of these means. FMCSA recommends that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a phone number in the body of your document so the Agency can contact you if it has questions regarding your submission.

To submit your comment online, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and insert “FMCSA–2012–0020” in the “Search” box, and then click the “Search” button to the right of the white box. Click on the top “Comment Now” box which appears next to the notice. Fill in your contact information, as desired and your comment, uploading documents if appropriate. If you submit your comments by mail or hand delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½; by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you submit comments by mail and would like to know that they reached the facility, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope.

FMCSA will consider all comments and material received during the comment period and may change this proposed rule based on your comments.

Viewing Comments and Documents

To view comments, as well as documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and insert “FMCSA–2012–0020” in the “Search” box and then click on “Search.” Click on the “Open Docket Folder” link and all the information for the notice, and