



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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Canada and U.S. Reach Agreement that will Facilitate Deployment of Public Safety Services Near the U.S.-Canada Border in the 764-776 MHz and 794-806 MHz Frequency Bands

Washington D.C. –The United States of America and the Government of Canada have concluded an amendment to the 1962 United States-Canada Agreement concerning coordination and use of radio frequencies above 30 megacycles per second, to add a new Arrangement that will be administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Industry Canada covering use of the Frequency Bands 764-776 MHz (TV channels 63 & 64) and 794-806 MHz (TV channels 68 & 69). The new Arrangement will facilitate the deployment of public safety systems in these bands near the U.S.-Canada border, providing public safety licensees near the border with much needed additional spectrum as well as interference-free operations and interoperability. This additional spectrum will allow public safety licensees along the border to develop robust and highly reliable public safety systems.

This Arrangement sets forth the principles and mechanisms for spectrum sharing by public safety licensees operating in the 764-776 MHz and 794-806 MHz bands near the U.S.-Canada border. The border area is divided into three Sharing Zones. In these zones, the Arrangement specifies which narrowband and wideband frequencies are primary for United States and which are primary for Canada. Operation on primary channels under the Arrangement is subject to limitations on the Effective Radiated Power (ERP). In addition, the Arrangement contains restrictions to protect the other country's TV stations. Use of the other country's primary frequencies in the Sharing Zones is restricted under the Arrangement to a maximum power flux density (pfd) at or beyond the border.

The Arrangement also specifies certain frequencies for shared use along the border. These are the Interoperability Channels and the Low Power Channels. The Interoperability Channels provide the necessary common operating frequencies for Public Safety stations on both sides of the border to communicate directly with each other for instant interchange of vital public safety information. Low Power channels are available for mobile operations only and are on an unprotected basis.

This Arrangement is titled "Sharing Arrangement Between the Department of Industry of Canada and the Federal Communications Commission of the United States of America Concerning the Use of the Frequency Bands 764 MHz to 776 MHz and 794 MHz to 806 MHz By the Land Mobile Service Along the Canada - United States Border." This Arrangement is an amendment to the existing 1962 US.-Canadian Agreement (mentioned above) and will be included in the technical annex to that Agreement. The full text of this Arrangement is available at the International Bureau Reference Room CY-A257, located on

the Courtyard level of 445 12th St. S.W.; from the FCC's duplicating contractor, Qualex International at (202) 863-2893 and on the FCC International Bureau website at: www.fcc.gov/ib/sand/agree.

The amendment was effected by an exchange of notes between the Embassy of Canada and the Department of State, signed at Washington, D.C. on June 15, 2005 and June 20, 2005, respectively. It entered into force on June 20, 2005.

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