

from the users of the radio, so the rules should be amended to reflect the temperature range over which measurements have been required.

43. We find that -20°C to $+50^{\circ}\text{C}$ is the appropriate temperature range for which frequency stability measurements should be made on FRS transmitters. FRS is a very short distance voice communication service intended for facilitating family and group activities, and we do not expect that FRS equipment would be used frequently at temperatures below -20°C (-4°F). The relatively low power of this equipment means that there would not be a significant risk of interference even if the carrier frequency were to drift out of tolerance below -20°C . We note that the -20°C to $+50^{\circ}\text{C}$ temperature range is consistent with the requirements in part 15 for low power transmitters that require frequency stability measurements. Finally, as Uniden and Cobra stated, many FRS transmitters have been approved and marketed that have been tested to only -20°C , and there have been no apparent problems. Accordingly, we are requiring the frequency tolerance of FRS transmitters to be measured over the temperature range of -20°C to $+50^{\circ}\text{C}$, as proposed.

Accreditation of Test Laboratories

44. In the *NPRM*, the Commission proposed that a test laboratory that has been accredited by an organization recognized by the Commission would no longer have to file a description of its measurement facilities with the Commission, provided the accrediting organization submitted certain information about the laboratory to the Commission. The information that would have to be submitted would be the laboratory name, address, contact information, scope of accreditation, date of accreditation, and the date by which the accreditation must be renewed. This proposal was intended to reduce the burden on laboratories by eliminating the need for them to file duplicate information with both the Commission and an accrediting organization. The Commission also proposed to clarify the conditions for recognizing the accreditation of laboratories outside the United States. Specifically, laboratories outside the United States would be recognized by the Commission if one of the following two conditions are met: (1) The laboratory has been designated by a foreign authority and recognized by the Commission under the terms of a government-to-government Mutual Recognition Agreement or Arrangement (MRA); or (2) the laboratory has been accredited by an organization whose

accreditations are recognized by the Commission.

45. CEA, Cisco, IBM, Motorola and TIA support eliminating the requirement for accredited laboratories to file a description of their measurement facilities with the Commission. These parties state that it is unnecessary for this information to be filed with the Commission because it has already been filed with the accrediting organization. However, Retlif Testing Laboratories (Retlif) and the American Council for Independent Laboratories (ACIL) oppose removing this requirement, stating the change would add costs for the accredited laboratory because the accredited laboratory would have to pay for the accrediting organization to file this information with the Commission. CEA, Cisco, ITI, Motorola and TIA support the proposed criteria for recognizing the accreditations of laboratories outside the United States. Cisco states that the change would be an enormous benefit for companies participating in the global marketplace. ITI states that the proposed change would simplify the conditions under which an accredited laboratory may be accredited for testing to Commission requirements and would be an improvement in the process of obtaining approval to use foreign laboratories for testing for a DoC. IBM and ITI recommend that we recognize the accreditation of foreign laboratories by National Institute of Standards and Technology National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NIST NVLAP) or the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA). They also believe that the language in the rules should reference "measurement facilities" rather than "open field sites" so as not to preclude the use of semi-anechoic chambers for testing.

46. We are adopting our proposal to not require accredited laboratories to file a description of their measurement facilities with us, provided the accrediting organization has submitted certain information about the laboratories to the Commission. This information must include the laboratory name, address (both the test site address and company mailing address), contact information, the accrediting organization's name, its designation number for the laboratory and the date by which the accreditation must be renewed. In addition, the name of the MRA must be provided for accredited laboratories outside of the United States designated under the terms of a government-to-government MRA. Consistent with the current requirements for filing measurement

facility descriptions, the information submitted by the accrediting organization must also include an FCC Registration Number (FRN), which is required for all organizations doing business with the Commission, and a "yes/no" indication as to whether the laboratory will perform testing on a contract basis. This will reduce the burden on accredited laboratories by eliminating the need for them to file duplicate information with the Commission and an accrediting organization.

47. We disagree with Retlif and ACIL that this change would significantly increase costs for laboratories. Accrediting organizations already have the information that we need in their records, and the Commission has developed an electronic system that these organizations can use to quickly and easily transmit the information to us. Further, accrediting organizations currently submit certain information about the laboratories they have accredited in paper form to the Commission, and we do not expect that a change from paper filing to electronic filing of this information will result in any increase in accreditation costs. We are not mandating accreditation for laboratories, and laboratories that are not accredited may continue to use the current procedure for filing test site description information with the Commission to be placed on our test site list.

48. We also are adopting the criteria we proposed for accepting the accreditation of laboratories located outside the United States, which are that the laboratory has been accredited by a foreign authority and recognized by the Commission under the terms of a government-to-government Mutual Recognition Agreement or Arrangement, or that the laboratory has been accredited by an organization whose accreditations are recognized by the Commission. These changes will simplify the conditions for accepting the accreditation of foreign laboratories by eliminating the prohibition on foreign accreditors accrediting laboratories outside their own country. The current rules already permit NVLAP and A2LA to accredit laboratories outside the United States, so there is no need for us to make a change to permit this as requested by IBM and ITI. These changes address the concerns raised by ITI in its petition for reconsideration filed in ET Docket 95-19, so we are in effect granting that petition. We agree with IBM and ITI that the rules should reference "measurement facilities" rather than "open field sites" so as not to preclude the use of semi-anechoic