



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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## FCC Clarifies Equipment Authorization Policy for Approving Music Devices that Connect to a Personal Computer

This Public Notice is issued to clarify the equipment authorization requirements for electronic musical instruments, recorders, amplifiers, and other sound creation and enhancement devices that are intended for or are capable of use with a personal computer.

Simple digital devices are subject to a self approval process, called Verification. This process only requires the manufacturer to perform tests on the devices, maintain test data that demonstrates compliance with the FCC technical rules, and properly label the device. Such devices include handheld games and calculators, as well as musical equipment that employ digital electronics or have midi ports for connections between musical equipment.

Recently, many types of musical equipment have been introduced that are designed to connect directly to personal computers via standardized personal computer interfaces such as a USB or IEEE 1394 port. Such devices are then considered computer peripherals, which have a separate equipment approval process. Such devices, when marketed for use in residential areas (Class B devices), are required to follow the Declaration of Conformity (DoC) or certification process. DoC is a self-approval process similar to Verification except that it requires that the tests be performed by an accredited test laboratory.

We have recently become aware of certain musical equipment, digital recording devices and amplifiers being improperly marketed and imported into the US pursuant to our Verification procedures, despite associated instructions and marketing materials that clearly indicate that they contemplate a connection to a personal computer via a USB port or other connection. This connection places the device into the category of a Class B personal computer peripheral, and under Sections 15.101, 2.803, and 2.1204 of the Commission's rules (47 C.F.R. §§ 15.101, 2.803, 2.1204) the device must either be authorized under the Declaration of Conformity procedures (Sections 2.1071-1077) or certification procedures (Sections 2.1031 et al),

All digital devices are subject to the same emissions limits, however, different approval processes have been established based on the complexity of testing required to conform with the rules. Since the emission limits are the same irrespective of the manner of authorization, devices

properly verified prior to the date of this Public Notice do not need to be retested and approved. All manufacturers are reminded, however, that all devices must be in compliance with the emissions limits of our rules, and they are advised to ensure that appropriate records are on hand that demonstrate such compliance. Any new devices and any future changes to existing devices will require a Declaration of Conformity or certification

If you have any questions regarding this Public Notice, you may contact Ray LaForge, (301) 362-3041 or [labhelp@fcc.gov](mailto:labhelp@fcc.gov).