

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL FOR TERMINAL ATTACHMENTS (ACTA)

MEETING DATE: September 9, 2003

TITLE: Adoption of TSB-168-A with regards to its impact on the Part 68 database and the ACTA Online Filing System.

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PURPOSE: Informative

DISTRIBUTION TO: ACTA Council and Staff

ABSTRACT

The focus of this contribution is to address the changes to the Part 68 Database and the ACTA Online Filing system due to the induction of TSB-168-A.

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Introduction

When the Part 68 database was transferred over from the FCC to ACTA, the intent was to create a globally available database that would allow individuals the ability to access the database for information over the World Wide Web. Another aspect would be the development of a tool to allow filers the ability to file products online, thus expediting the Part 68 filing process. Several major obstacles had to be overcome in order to convey the said deliverables. The necessity to maintain the legacy information, while changing the filing and labeling format created a very intricate infrastructure. All proposed changes must be carefully analyzed in order to maintain the functionality of the database and prevent any possible damage. With the introduction of TSB-168-A there are several issues that must be addressed in order to allow the database to maintain smooth operations. In most cases an update to a table is very simple and straight forward. TSB-168-A introduces the concept of adding additional equipment codes, changing existing equipment code definitions, and in some instances retiring existing equipment codes. Retired codes must remain available for legacy records and be available for Responsible Parties will continue to file products that will continue to use legacy equipment codes under certain conditions. It is these requirements, along with the preservation of legacy information, different labeling formats, and the delicate infrastructure that complicates the process.

Changes to the Part 68 Table Structure:

Currently the equipment code table is used by all types of filings regardless of the label format (FCC label or ACTA Label). To implement TSB-168-A the table structure must be changed and programming will be required to filter certain codes, based on the type of filing that is being done on the ACTA Online Filing System (AOF). Equipment codes must be updated with their respective definition. "Legacy" or "grandfathered" codes must remain in the table and will require they be classified as such. Filtering of codes will take place at a programming level on the AOF Filing Pages. The actual relationship of tables will remain intact.

Changes to the ACTA Online Filing System

Due to the format that the original AOF was created, programming changes must be focused on "Original Filings" and "Re-Certification" Filings. Notice of Change filings and Modification filings automatically bring up the variable (Equipment Code) used in the previous filing and are not available to be changed (In these particular filings, changing these variable would ultimately result in a product label change. This would require either an "Original Filing" or a "Re-Certification Filing"). The Administrative portal of the AOF will also require programming changes on the "Original" and "Re-Certification"

Testing

The AOF must remain functional and available to all filers while these changes to the Database and the ACTA Online Filing system are being implemented. Changes must be

tested on a test server before they are to be implemented on the live environment. Scheduled maintenance may be required in order to incorporate the changes to the Part 68 database table structure and the programming changes on the identified pages. It will be necessary to schedule down time for the server upgrade, all efforts must be made to limit the duration of this scheduled downtime. If necessary, down time must be done during non-peak hours and may require a notification on the web page to all filers about the update.

Time Required to Implement Changes

Due to the changes required to the table structure to the Part68 database, additional programming on the AOF pages, and testing, the required time for implementation will be 60 days.

IN CONCLUSION:

The induction of TSB-168-A will require several changes be made to both the Part 68 Database and programming changes to the ACTA Online Filing System. It is advisable to have the AOF functional during the implementation of these changes on a test environment. Once the Database and AOF are tested it will then be uploaded to the live environment. The changes will require 60 days for implementation.