

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Promoting the Integrity and Security of)	ET Docket No. 24-136
Telecommunications Certification Bodies,)	
Measurement Facilities, and the Equipment)	
Authorization Program)	

**COMMENTS OF
CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION**

Consumer Technology Association (CTA)¹ respectfully requests that the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) grant Garmin’s Petition for Reconsideration, or in the alternative, an Exemption or Waiver of the recent Order in the above-captioned proceeding so that publicly traded companies based in Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA)-partnered countries may comply with the newly adopted disclosure rules for telecommunication certification bodies, measurement facilities, and laboratory accreditation bodies.² CTA supports balanced policies that protect public and national security interests while ensuring that consumers and businesses can thrive. Granting Garmin’s petition with respect to publicly traded companies based in MRA-partnered countries would further the public interest by ensuring that all covered entities based in countries with which the U.S. has established MRAs are able to

¹ As North America’s largest technology trade association, CTA® is the tech sector. Our members are the world’s leading innovators—from startups to global brands—helping support more than 18 million American jobs. CTA owns and produces CES®—the most powerful tech event in the world.

² *Promoting the Integrity and Security of Telecommunications Certification Bodies, Measurement Facilities, and the Equipment Authorization Program, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, 40 FCC Rcd 3616 (2025) (*Order*); Garmin International, Inc. Petition for Reconsideration or, in the Alternative, Exemption or Waiver, ET Docket No. 24-136 (filed Sept. 8, 2025) (*Petition*). Garmin requests that the Commission either (i) modify certain of its newly adopted, ongoing ownership disclosure requirements so that they are triggered by actual knowledge of a new five percent owner in an equipment authorization entity wholly owned and controlled by a U.S. Public Company or (ii) exempt all such entities from the ongoing ownership disclosure requirements. *Petition* at 2. The *Petition* was published in the Federal Register for comment at 91 Fed. Reg. 2895, setting a reply comment deadline of February 17, 2026.

promptly update required disclosure information upon becoming aware of the need for such updates.³

Among other things, the *Order* expanded the FCC’s current ownership certification and reporting requirements to ensure the FCC has the necessary information to enforce the relevant prohibitions against the involvement of prohibited entities in the equipment authorization process on an ongoing basis.⁴ This has created compliance complications that the Commission can address and still meet its national security goals.

Garmin correctly identified a knowledge gap facing U.S. publicly traded companies, namely, that such companies would have no way of knowing, before certain required ownership disclosure deadlines set by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), of the need to update their FCC disclosure reports. As explained by Garmin, the SEC’s ownership disclosure rules may “prevent such U.S. Public Companies from receiving notice, or having any knowledge, for several weeks or months of new five percent owners or ownership changes involving existing five percent owners.”⁵ However, the reporting rules require covered entities report such ownership changes within 30 days of the changes “taking effect.”⁶

CTA understands that many publicly traded companies on exchanges abroad are similarly situated with securities laws that also dictate the timeline by which those publicly traded companies become aware of changes in ownership that would trigger the new rules. As a result, such companies will also be in danger of violating the rules because it is possible that 30 days from the change taking effect will pass before they become aware of the ownership change. To

³ See FCC, Equipment Authorization - Mutual Recognition Agreements, <https://www.fcc.gov/general/equipment-authorization-mutual-recognition-agreements> (last visited Feb. 17, 2026) (explaining MRAs and identifying the equipment authorization MRAs currently in place).

⁴ *Order* ¶¶ 82-89.

⁵ Petition at 4.

⁶ *Order App. A*.

balance the needed flexibility proposed by Garmin with the Commission’s goals of protecting the supply chain from national security threats, CTA encourages the Commission to build upon the MRAs that serve as part of the foundation of the equipment authorization process.

Consistent with other FCC rules that require actual knowledge or notification,⁷ CTA requests that the Commission modify new Sections 2.949(d), 2.951(c) and 2.962(d)(9) to append after “no later than 30 days after any relevant change to the required information takes effect” the following language: “**or, in the case of publicly traded companies based in the United States or in countries with which the United States has entered into a Mutual Recognition Agreement, after having actual knowledge of any relevant change**”. Taking this approach would avoid “the very real possibility under the initially adopted language in Sections 2.951(c), 2.949(d) and 2.962(d)(9) that a [public entity] could be placed in violation of these rules due to the delay associated with [required securities filings requirements]” despite an entity’s efforts to comply with the rules.⁸

CTA requests that the Commission modify the newly adopted rules as described above. Doing so would allow companies to implement these evolving rules in a way that promotes national security while also maintaining the availability and functionality of technology for consumers and promoting U.S. competitiveness in the global market.

⁷ See, e.g., 47 CFR § 11.45(b) (requiring broadcasters to report an Emergency Alert System false alert within 24 hours of “actual knowledge”); *id.* § 64.611(k)(1)(iii) (requiring that VRS and IP CTS providers update a user’s registration information within 30 days after of receiving written notification of the release or transfer of an incarcerated person).

⁸ Petition at 8. Garmin proposes, as an alternative, that the Commission exempt U.S. public entities from the new ongoing reporting requirements. *Id.* at 8-9. If the Commission grants this alternative, CTA requests that the Commission consider extending such relief to all similarly situated public companies, such as those that are subject to ownership and control disclosure requirements analogous to those imposed by the SEC where the company is traded.

