



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

OCT 6 2003

Mr. Andy Leimer
Federal Communications Commission
Equipment Authorization Branch
7435 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Dear Mr. Leimer:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Spectrum Policy and Management Program received notification from Wulfsberg Electronics of their application for equipment certification for the Flexcomm 2000 family of communications systems for aircraft installation (FRW2000-VHF, FRW2000-UHF1, FRW2000-UHF2, and FRW2000-800). The FAA is concerned that the operating frequency ranges for the Flexcomm 2000 systems cover frequency bands that are not appropriate for the functions requested. Specifically, the FRW2000-VHF FM radio tunes over the 136.0-174.0 MHz band, but the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules do not allow FM emissions on the aviation frequencies in the 136.0-137.0 MHz band. The FRW2000-UHF1 FM radio tunes over the 403.0-470.0 MHz band yet there are no frequencies in the 406.0-420.0 MHz available for aircraft operations under Part 90 of the FCC rules.

Thus, the FAA requests the FCC exclude the 136.0-137.0 MHz band from the frequency range specified in the FCC Grant of Equipment Authorization for the FRW2000-VHF because Section 203(h) of the Part 90 rules does not restrict the channels available to operators of aircraft radios and the FAA believes that operators would assume that this FM radio is usable on aviation channels in the 136.0-137.0 MHz band. In non-aircraft operations under Part 90 of the FCC rules, the operator selectable frequencies are limited to those channels authorized under Part 90 (Sections 203(e), 203(f), and 203(g)).

The FAA also requests the FCC exclude the 406.0-420.0 MHz band from the frequency range specified in the FCC Grant of Equipment Authorization for the FRW2000-UHF1 because there are no channels in this band available for aircraft operations. Further, under Section 210(l) of Part 90, the equipment would have to be evaluated for conformance to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) standards for government users.

The FAA has noted that when frequency ranges appear on FCC Grant of Equipment Authorization many consumers assume that the any frequency in the entire range could be used. This is especially confusing when the FCC grant covers the 138.0-174.0 and

406.0-470.0 MHz bands, yet the radio does not comply with the NTIA standards for the 138.0-144.0, 150.05-150.8, 162.0-173.2, 173.4-174.0, and 406.0-420.0 MHz band. The FAA requests the FCC carefully consider which frequency ranges should appear in the frequency range column when they issue Grants of Equipment Authorization.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Don Nellis, Spectrum Planning and International Division, at (202) 267-9779.

Sincerely,



Donald K. Willis
Manager, Spectrum Planning and
International Division

cc:

Ms. Mary Beaumont
Wulfsberg Electronics
Principal RF Engineer
6400 Wilkinson Drive
Prescott, AZ 86301-6164
FAX: (928) 708-1550