

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN**

*Re: Sections 2.925 and 2.926 of the Rules Regarding Grantee Codes for Certified
Radiofrequency Equipment*

Mr. Knapp, Ms. Matise, and Mr. Doshi: thank you for an excellent presentation. In comparison to many of the items the Commission adopts or presents, actions that streamline authorization procedures, on the surface, may seem non-controversial and hold less press appeal. But, OET's efforts to improve the equipment authorization program are significant because these moves will ultimately make it easier for innovators to bring their products to market. Clarifying the permit-but-ask procedures and modifying the rules for software defined radios, for example, should result in fewer regulatory hurdles and lower administrative costs for equipment manufacturers.

Today's order on grantee codes is also a necessary step towards facilitating innovation. Devices that are subject to the FCC's "certification" procedure must receive an FCC ID that is unique to the device. This ID also includes a code that is unique to the grantee, or manufacturer, producing the device. In 1979, as you mentioned, the FCC adopted a rule that limited the grantee codes to three alphanumeric characters.

But it's been more than thirty years since the adoption of that rule and the FCC is now running out of unique grantee codes. This is due, in large part, to the fact that the number of assigned grantee codes has been increasing each year. For example, in 2001, the number of grantee codes assigned was 635. In 2011, that number was 1,275. Staff informs us that based on the number of grantee codes that have been requested, that number of grantee codes assigned in 2012 will exceed 1,300.

All of this is good news for American consumers. It means that technology companies are attracting sufficient capital to develop innovative products for this market. With today's action, we enable a minimum of eight million grantee codes to be assigned in the future. This move, today, will help to ensure that this aspect of our equipment authorization process will not impede ingenuity and I am pleased to join my colleagues in commending the staff of the Office of Engineering and Technology, for presenting us with this timely item.