



Telecommunication Certification Body

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Changes in the US System

- ◆ The FCC has made major changes in the US approval process in an attempt to streamline the approval process.
- ◆ First, the FCC is making greater use of the declaration of conformity procedure.

Privatization of Approvals

- ◆ Second, the FCC is moving “certification” to the private sector through the creation of telecommunication certification bodies (TCBs). These changes will take effect this year.

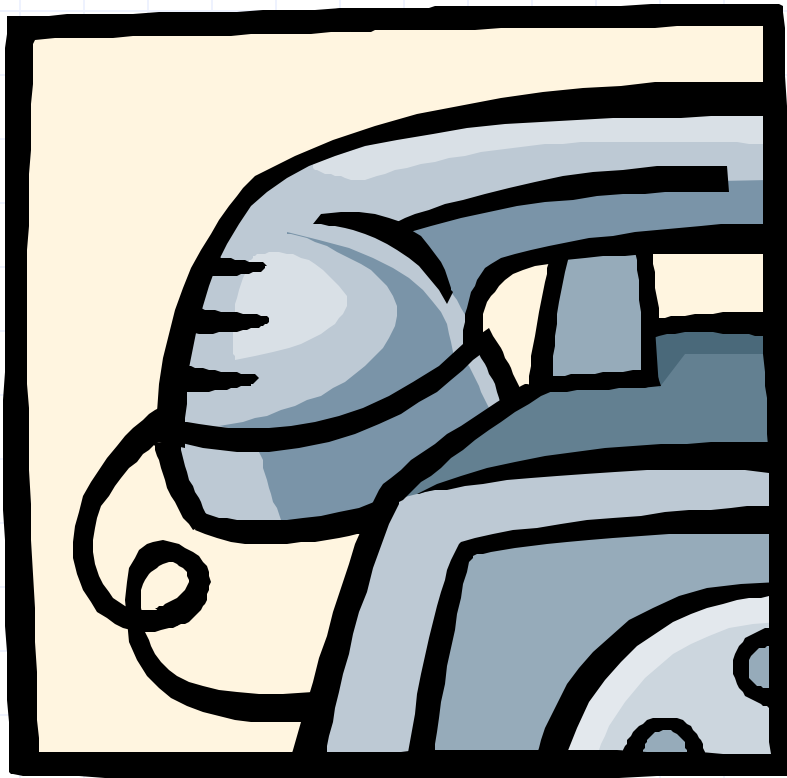
Scope

- ◆ Unlicensed Radio Frequency Devices
 - Low power transmitters below 1 GHz, emergency alert systems, unintentional radiators and consumer ISM
 - Low power transmitters above 1 GHz
 - Unlicensed Personal Communication System
 - Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure and low power transmitters using spread spectrum

Scope

- ◆ Licensed Radio Service Equipment
 - Personal Mobile Radio Services (cellular)
 - General Mobile Radio Services (non-cellular)
 - Maritime and Aviation Radio Services
 - Microwave Radio Services

Scope



Telephone terminal
equipment (Part 68)

Certification

Certification requires the submission of a test report to the FCC/TCB for review. Both the testing and preparation of the test report are provided by the applicant. The term "registration" used for telecom equipment has been changed to "certification".

New Rules

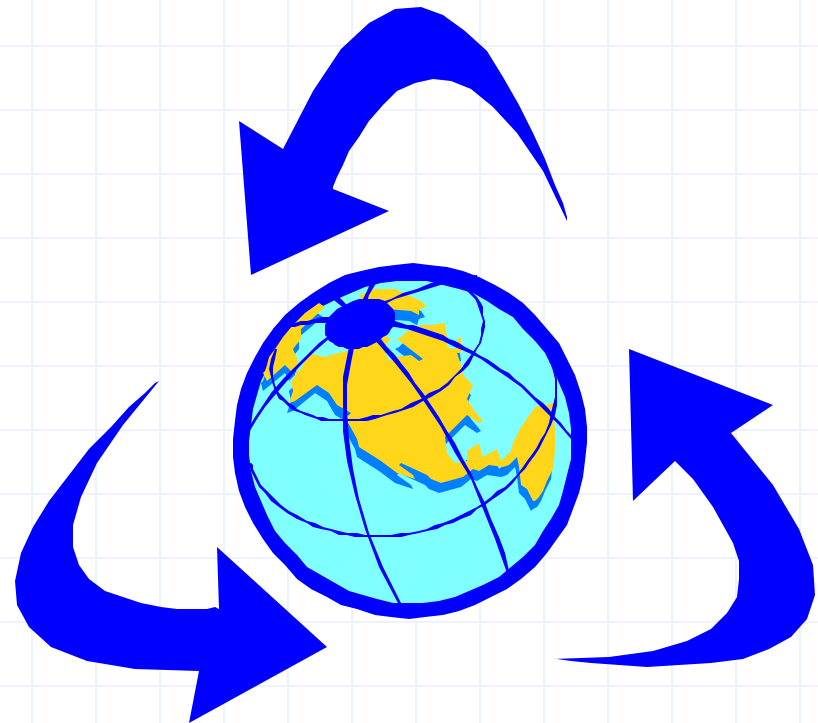
- ◆ Establishes procedures for designating a telecommunication certification body (TCB)
- ◆ Manufacturers will have the option to choose a TCB or the FCC to obtain approval of a product subject to certification

New Rules

- ◆ NIST identified as the designating Authority for US CABs
- ◆ Allows foreign designating authorities for countries in which an MRA is effect
- ◆ Accrediting body must comply with ISO guides 61 & 58
- ◆ TCBs accredited to ISO guides 25 & 65

New Rules

- ◆ Accrediting body must comply with ISO guides 61 & 58
- ◆ TCBs accredited to ISO guides 25 & 65



Terminology

United States

European Union

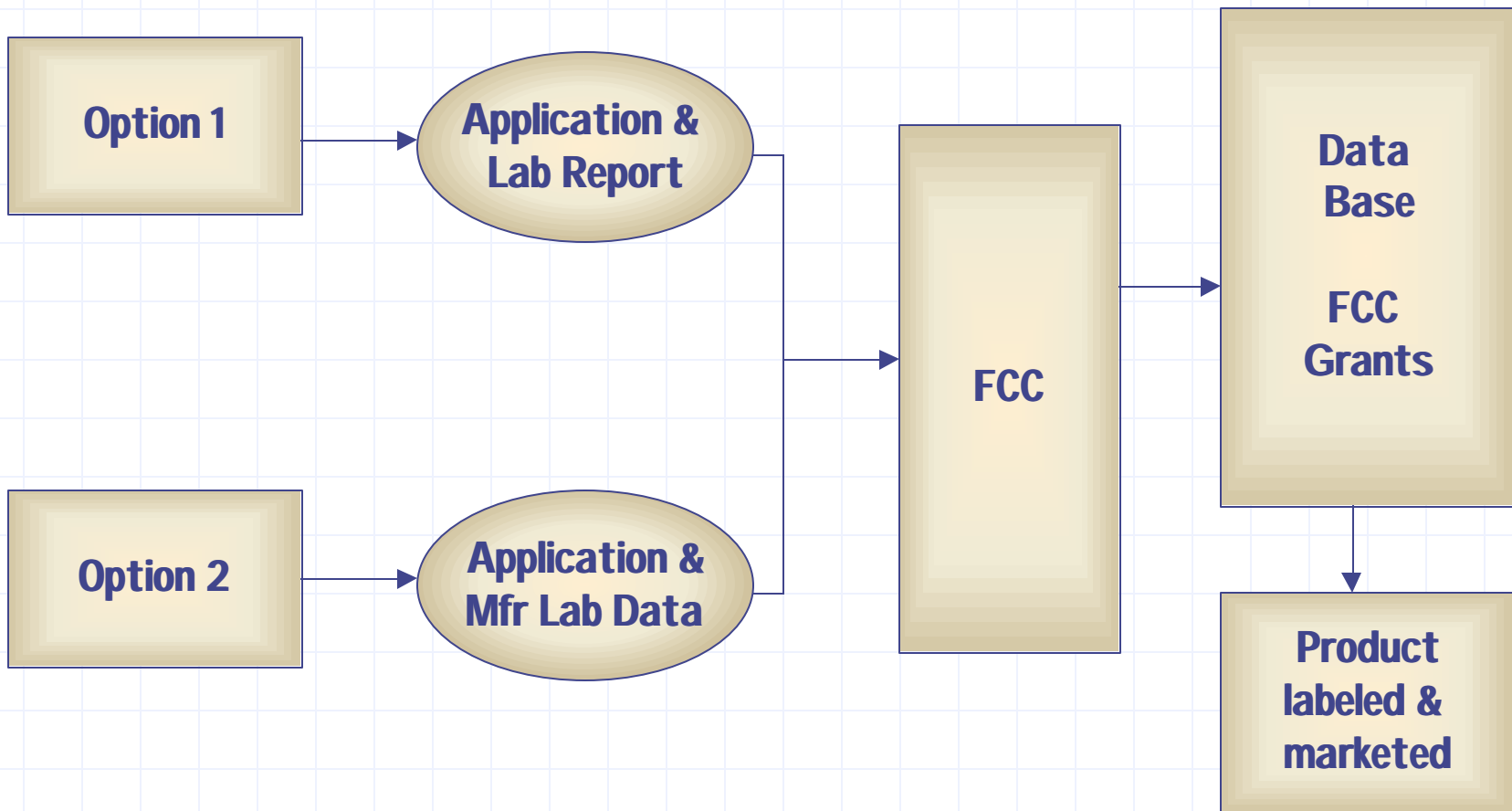
TCB

Notified Body

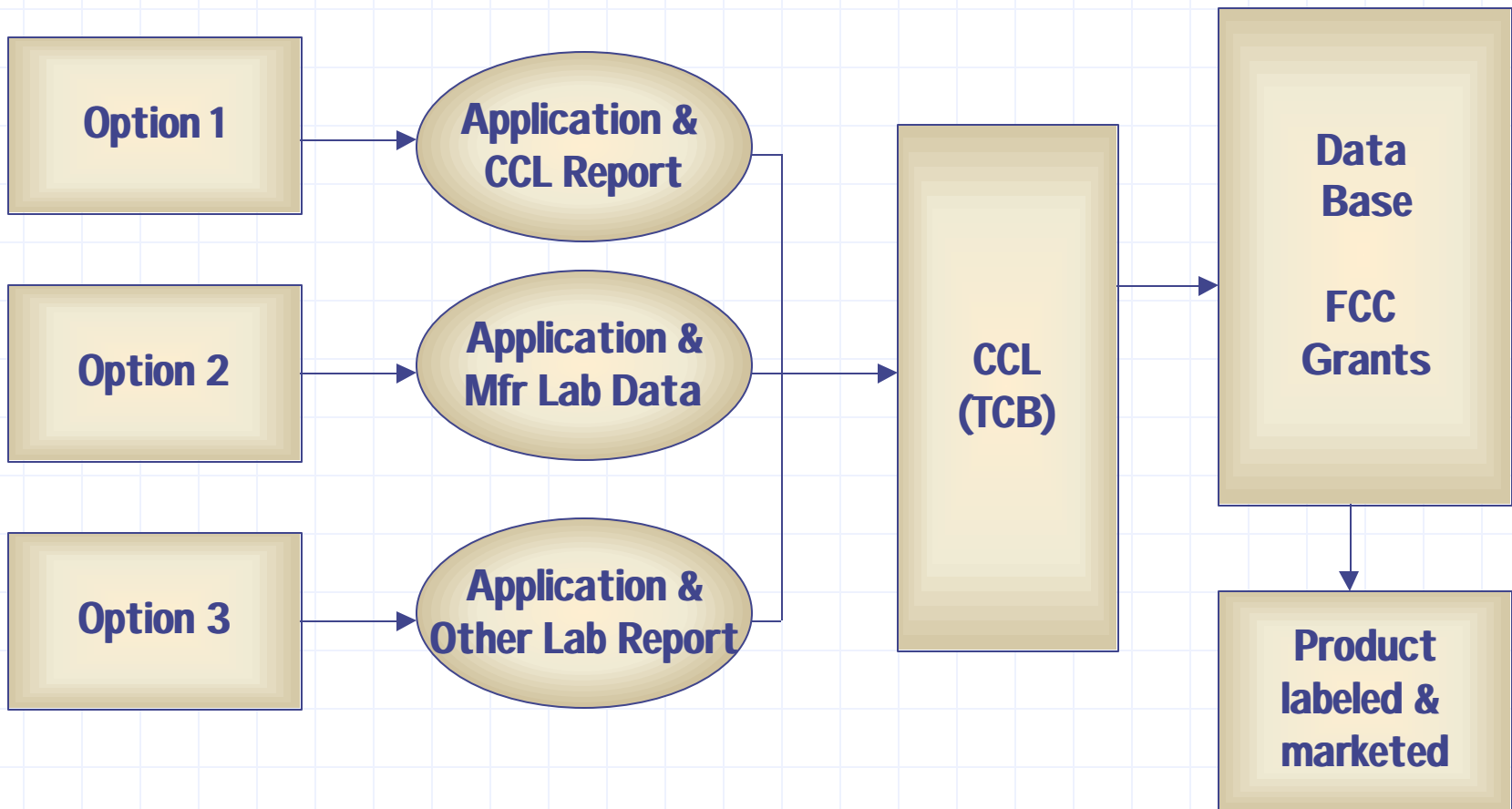
**Accredited
Laboratory**

**Designated
Laboratory**

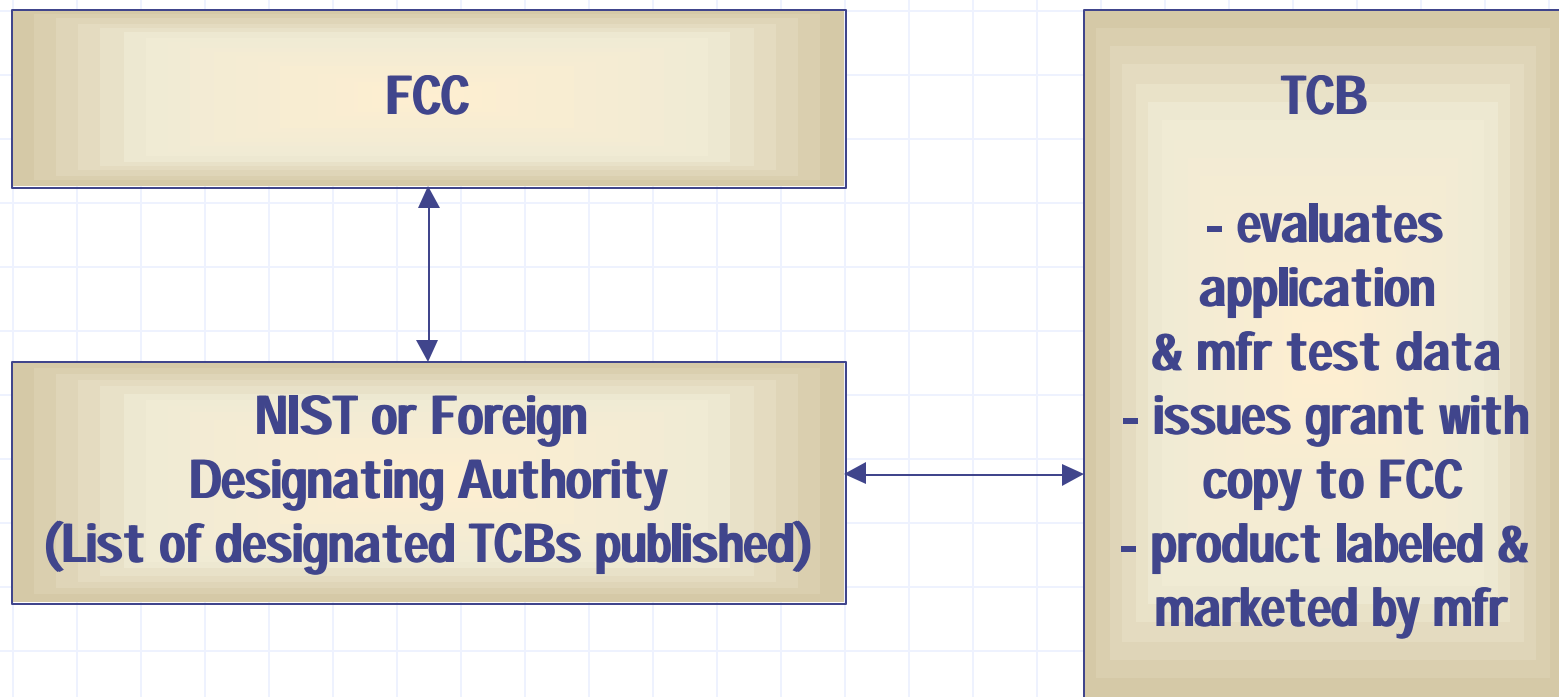
Current Approval Process



New Certification Options



New TCB Program



TCB Certification Process

- ◆ Manufacturer tests or has product tested
- ◆ Determines compliance with standards
- ◆ Prepares file
- ◆ Sends application to TCB of choice

Information

- ◆ FCC Form 730 and 731
- ◆ Fee
- ◆ Test Report
- ◆ Technical Description
- ◆ User/Installation Manual
- ◆ Photographs

TCB Scope of Responsibility

- ◆ Certify equipment in accordance FCC rules and policies
- ◆ Fair and equitable treatment -- TCB certification of a product is comparable to FCC grant

TCB Scope of Responsibility

- ◆ Accept test data from any source, subject to requirements in guide 65, and shall not unnecessarily repeat tests
- ◆ May assess fees for processing applications
- ◆ May rescind a grant within 30 days

TCB Limitations

- ◆ TCBs cannot
 - Waive FCC rules
 - Take enforcement actions (refer to FCC)
 - Certify a unique product for which there are no rules

TCB Limitations

- ◆ TCBs cannot
 - Revoke a grant after 30 days (set aside within 30 days)
 - Authorize transfer of control of a grantee, except for telephone equipment

Post Certification

- ◆ Send electronic copy of approved application and grant sent to FCC
- ◆ Perform surveillance activities per guide 65

Post Certification

- ◆ Upon request, send a list of products certified
- ◆ Upon request, submit a copy of the product evaluation report to the FCC within 30 days

Surveillance Activities

- ◆ FCC will perform surveillance and enforcement activities
- ◆ FCC final arbiter in case of dispute

Surveillance Activities

- ◆ TCB must also include surveillance of products certified per clause 13 of ISO guide 65
 - Type test a few samples of total numbers certified by TCB. Other types of surveillance activities permitted
 - Non-compliance must be reported to FCC within 30 days

TCB Timetable

- ◆ February 2, 1999 – FCC Federal Register Notice creating TCB Program
- ◆ August 17, 1999 – FCC Public Notice on TCB Accreditation Criteria
- ◆ October 5, 1999 – NIST Federal Register Notice on TCB Program

TCB Timetable

- ◆ November 15, 1999 – First Batch of TCB Applications Due
- ◆ March 2000 – Recognition of Accreditation Body
- ◆ March 2000 – First batch of TCBs accredited
- ◆ March 2000 – TCBs become operational

Summary

- ◆ Communication Certification Laboratory is actively participating in the development of the TCB program and is seeking accreditation to operate as a TCB.
- ◆ Now is the time to prepare to take advantage of the TCB program.

Information Sources

NIST (Standards Services)

www.ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/210/216/mra.htm

Federal Communications Commission

www.fcc.gov

Communication Certification Laboratory, Inc.

www.cclab.com

Telecommunication Information Services (FCC
Rules and Information Service)

www.telecom-info-services.com