

Norm, KD2ICH, contacted the FCC about the future of the Citizen's Band Radio Service. As stated during the net. The FCC responded back that CB radio is NOT scheduled for any changes at this time. The FCC stated that the confusion it is probably related to the article below which is not the same as CB Radio. It is a broadband service.

Part 96 Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS)

Part 96 – Citizens Broadband Radio Service

In accordance with Rule 90.1307(c) and DA 20-291, many NN Radio Service licensees will no longer be authorized to provide service under their licenses after October 17, 2020. The NN (3650-3700 MHz) Radio Service will be transitioning to the Citizens Broadband Radio Service in the 3.5 GHz band (3550-3700 MHz) under Part 96 of the rules. Two types of commercial users operate in the Citizens Broadband Radio Service: Priority Access Licensees and General Authorized Access users. We have created a three-tiered access and authorization framework to accommodate shared federal and non-federal use of the band.

The Incumbent Access tier includes authorized federal users in the 3550-3700 MHz band, Fixed Satellite Service (space-to-Earth) earth stations in the 3600-3650 MHz band, and, for a finite period, grandfathered wireless broadband licensees in the 3650-3700 MHz band. Incumbent Access users receive protection against harmful interference from Priority Access Licensees and General Authorized Access users.

The General Authorized Access tier is licensed-by-rule and may operate in the 3550-3700 MHz frequency band. GAA users must not cause harmful interference to Incumbent Access users or Priority Access Licensees and must accept interference from these users. GAA users also have no expectation of interference protection from other GAA users. If the user does not have a PAL and is operating part 96 compliant equipment and working with a Spectrum Access System (SAS), then it is likely a GAA user (many NN licensees are transitioning to GAA license-by-rule in this manner). License-by-rule means that GAA users do not need to apply for an FCC license.

The Priority Access tier will be licensed on a county-by-county basis through competitive bidding and may operate on unpaired 10 megahertz channels in the 3550-3650 MHz frequency band. Auction 105 offered 22,631 PALs, and bidding began on July 23, 2020. At this time, it is too late to bid for a PAL, but an entity can still operate on a GAA basis or learn about the secondary market opportunities (e.g. leasing) for PALs. The Citizens Broadband Radio Service will utilize SAS administrators to maintain the database of all registered locations and frequency assignments. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Office of Engineering and Technology released Public Notice DA 20-110 and DA 20-437 announcing the approval of five (5) Spectrum Access System Administrators. If you have a

need to operate in the 3550-3700 MHz band, please refer to Part 96 of the rules for additional information regarding the licensing and technical requirements for this frequency band.

Both GAA users and Priority Access Licensees need to register equipment with a SAS. The ID given by a SAS to a Priority Access Licensee or a GAA user is for SAS coordination purposes and is not an FCC license.

The SASs coordinate PAL and GAA access to the 3.5 GHz band on a dynamic basis. No specific channel in the 3.5 GHz band is dedicated to any licensee or user because of the shared access regime.

In accordance with sections 90.1307, 90.1338, and DA 20-291, for an NN license to qualify as a Grandfathered Wireless Broadband Licensee, the licensee must have registered their stations on or before April 17, 2015, and registered stations must be “constructed, in service, and fully compliant with the rules in Part 90, subpart Z as of April 17, 2016.” The transition periods for grandfathered NN licensees ends between October 17, 2020 and January 8, 2023, depending on the grant and expiration dates of each individual license. During the transition period, grandfathered NN licensees are granted incumbent status with respect to Citizens Broadband Radio Service operations in their protection zones. Non-grandfathered NN licensees have the right to operate at existing registered sites under part 90 (on a non-exclusive, unprotected basis) until the date for which each licensee would have qualified for grandfathered status had they applied.

Grandfathered and non-grandfathered part 90 NN licenses transitioning from NN to part 96 should remove their registrations in ULS when transitioning equipment from part 90 to part 96 to coordinate with a SAS, per 90.1307(a).

CFR 47 FCC Rule Part 96 – Citizens Broadband Radio Service

<https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=fe5a79322854a96dd53ce76d12f68c6c&mc=true&node=pt47.5.96&rgn=div5>

3.5 GHz Band Overview (including the Releases page available on the left column), <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/bureau-divisions/mobility-division/35-ghz-band/35-ghz-band-overview>

If you have any further questions, or need additional information, please submit a help request at <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/available-support-services> or call the FCC Licensing Support Center at (877) 480-3201.

Sincerely,

FCC Licensing Support Center

8:00 AM – 6:00 PM EST, M - F