

QUESTION 7

Applicant seeks authority to expand current testing in the interests of developing RFID technology as a viable solution for its worldwide retail, supply chain tracking and management system.

Wal-Mart will utilize this FCC experimental license for radio frequency identification (RFID) research at two retail locations. This research will build upon the work that is currently being conducted in the Bentonville, Arkansas lab using RFID reader standards and frequencies. The research is to be based on retail and supply chain applications utilizing RFID readers at strategic locations within applicant's retail locations. The need for the authorization is to continue to research and develop a deployment strategy for RFID solutions.

The experimentation will include the use of RFID tagged cases in "real world" retail conditions. Testing will be conducted using fixed units and RFID enabled handhelds for inventory collection, product locating and product receiving in a store environment.

For experimentation purposes, power limits in the 902-928 MHz band under Part 15 may be exceeded slightly as indicated on the application associated with this statement. The configurations of the units in operation will continually be optimized to ensure acceptable performance across varying power levels. The goal of this research and testing is to find the optimal placements of tags and readers to facilitate RFID solution development and to demonstrate that RFID tags can exist within a global RFID network infrastructure and still be effective to implement the various aspects of global supply chain management. The research will also ensure that standards and systems are designed to allow successful RFID communications by companies deploying RFID.