

Request to Expedite STA Application

American Airlines is working on a project to certify 802.11 WiFi devices both installed and carry-on on aircraft. This certification requires EMI testing with a “signal emulator” consisting of a signal generator and power amplifier to ensure these devices are safe to operate on board aircraft. In order to adhere to FAA requirements, the “signal emulator” power (5 Watts) slightly exceeds the FCC limits for the operating frequencies of 802.11a, b and g.

It is important to mention that the emitting antenna will be located inside the aircraft at all times with all the doors closed which greatly reduces the emission levels outside the aircraft. According to tests performed for the RTCA by NASA, aircraft manufactures and airline operators, the minimum path loss between the interior of the cabin and aircraft antennas was 25 dB.

The test location is the American Airlines Maintenance facility at Tulsa International Airport (TUL) located approximately 1.2 miles Northeast of the terminals. The duration of the test which involves emissions which exceed FCC limits is expected to be 1 day. The proposed test date is March 5, 2007 which is required to adhere to schedule. A delay in the schedule would cause a substantial amount of administrative and work force costs to American Airlines. Further, a delay in the schedule would impact revenue expected by the use of this system.

I appreciate your consideration of this expedite request.

Sincerely,

Todd Myer
American Airlines