MC7455

Hardware Integration Guide

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SIERRA WIRELESS®

Important Notice

Due to the nature of wireless communications, transmission and reception of data can never be guaranteed. Data may be delayed, corrupted (i.e., have errors) or be totally lost. Although significant delays or losses of data are rare when wireless devices such as the Sierra Wireless modem are used in a normal manner with a well-constructed network, the Sierra Wireless modem should not be used in situations where failure to transmit or receive data could result in damage of any kind to the user or any other party, including but not limited to personal injury, death, or loss of property. Sierra Wireless accepts no responsibility for damages of any kind resulting from delays or errors in data transmitted or received using the Sierra Wireless modem, or for failure of the Sierra Wireless modem to transmit or receive such data.

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Do not operate the Sierra Wireless modem in areas where blasting is in progress, where explosive atmospheres may be present, near medical equipment, near life support equipment, or any equipment which may be susceptible to any form of radio interference. In such areas, the Sierra Wireless modem **MUST BE POWERED OFF**. The Sierra Wireless modem can transmit signals that could interfere with this equipment.

Do not operate the Sierra Wireless modem in any aircraft, whether the aircraft is on the ground or in flight. In aircraft, the Sierra Wireless modem **MUST BE POWERED OFF**. When operating, the Sierra Wireless modem can transmit signals that could interfere with various onboard systems.

Note: Some airlines may permit the use of cellular phones while the aircraft is on the ground and the door is open. Sierra Wireless modems may be used at this time.

The driver or operator of any vehicle should not operate the Sierra Wireless modem while in control of a vehicle. Doing so will detract from the driver or operator's control and operation of that vehicle. In some states and provinces, operating such communications devices while in control of a vehicle is an offence.

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Sales information and technical support, including warranty and returns	Web: sierrawireless.com/company/contact-us/ Global toll-free number: 1-877-687-7795 6:00 am to 5:00 pm PST
Corporate and product information	Web: sierrawireless.com

Revision History

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1	September 2015	FCC/IC Certification
2	December 2021	Added B8 for FCC/IC

Contents

Introduction 5

Accessories 5

Required Connectors 5

Power 6

Power Supply 6

Module Power States 6

RF Specifications 7

RF Connections 8

Shielding 8

Antenna and Cabling 8

Ground Connection 9

Interference and Sensitivity 9

Interference From Other Wireless Devices 10

Host-generated RF Interference 10

Device-generated RF Interference 10

Methods to Mitigate Decreased Rx Performance 10

Radiated Spurious Emissions (RSE) 11

Radiated Sensitivity Measurement 11

Regulatory Compliance and Industry Certifications 12

Important Notice 12

Safety and Hazards 12

Important Compliance Information For North American Users 13

Acronyms 15

1: Introduction

The Sierra Wireless MC7455 PCI Express Mini Card is a compact, lightweight, wireless LTE- and UMTS-based modem that provides LTE, UMTS, and GNSS connectivity for M2M applications, notebook, ultrabook and tablet computers over several radio frequency bands.

Accessories

A hardware development kit is available for AirPrime MC-series modules. The kit contains hardware components for evaluating and developing with the module, including:

- Development board
- Cables
- Antennas (Additional antennas may be required to support all bands.)
- Initial allotment of support hours
- Other accessories

For over-the-air LTE testing, ensure that suitable antennas are used.

Required Connectors

Table 1-1 describes the connectors used to integrate the MC7455 Mini Card into your host device.

Table 1-1: Required host-module connectors[a]

Connector type	Description
RF cables	• Mate with Hirose U.FL connectors (model U.FL #CL331-0471-0-10) • Three connector jacks
EDGE (52-pin)	• Industry-standard mating connector • Some manufacturers include Tyco, Foxconn, Molex • Example: UDK board uses Molex 67910-0001
SIM	• Industry-standard connector. Type depends on how host device exposes the SIM socket • Example: UDK board uses ITT CCM03-3518

a. Manufacturers/part numbers are for reference only and are subject to change. Choose connectors that are appropriate for your own design.

2: Power

Power Supply

The host provides power to the MC7455 through multiple power and ground pins. The host must provide safe and continuous power at all times; the module does not have an independent power supply, or protection circuits to guard against electrical issues.

For detailed pinout and voltage/current requirements of this module, see the *AirPrime MC7455 Product Technical Specification*.

Module Power States

The module has five power states, as described in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1: Module power states

State	Details	Host is powered	Module is powered	USB interface active	RF enabled

Normal (Default state)	• Module is active
	• Default state when VCC is first applied in the absence of W_DISABLE_N control
	• Module is capable of placing/receiving calls, or establishing data connections on the wireless network
	• Current consumption is affected by several factors, including:
	  • Radio band being used
	  • Transmit power
	  • Receive gain settings
	  • Data rate
	  • Number of active Tx time slots
		✔	✔	✔	✔

Low power ('Airplane mode')	• Module is active
	• Module enters this state:
	  • Under host interface control:
	  - Host issues AT+CFUN=0 (*[1] AT Command Set for User Equipment (UE) (Release 6) (Doc# 3GPP TS 27.007)*), or
	  - If the module is currently configured to power on/off using W_DISABLE_N, the host must issue AT!PCOFFEN=0 to configure the modem to enter low power mode when W_DISABLE_N is asserted. Note: This is a persistent configuration option.
	  - Once the modem has been configured (AT!PCOFFEN=0), the host can assert W_DISABLE_N to enter low power mode.
	  • Automatically, when critical temperature or voltage trigger limits have been reached
		✔	✔	✔	✘

Sleep	• Normal state of module between calls or data connections • Module cycles between wake (polling the network) and sleep, at network provider-determined interval.	✔	✔	✘	✘
Disconnected	• Host power source is disconnected from the module and all voltages associated with the module are at 0 V.	✘	✘	✘	✘

3: RF Specifications

The MC7455 operates on the frequency bands listed below.

Table 3-1: LTE Frequency Band Support[a]

Band	Frequency (Tx)	Frequency (Rx)
Band 1	1920–1980 MHz	2110–2170 MHz
Band 2	1850–1910 MHz	1930–1990 MHz
Band 3	1710–1785	1805–1880 MHz
Band 4	1710–1755	2110–2155 MHz
Band 5	824–849 MHz	869–894 MHz
Band 7	2500–2570 MHz	2620–2690 MHz
Band 8	880–915 MHz	925–960 MHz
Band 12	699–716 MHz	729–746 MHz
Band 13	777–787 MHz	746–756 MHz
Band 20	832–862 MHz	791–821 MHz
Band 25	1850–1915 MHz	1930–1995 MHz
Band 26	814–849 MHz	859–894 MHz
Band 29	n/a	717–728 MHz
Band 30	2305–2315 MHz	2350–2360 MHz
Band 41	2496–2690 MHz (TDD)	

a. For bandwidth support details, see *3GPP TS 36.521-1 v11.3.0, table 5.4.2.1-1*.

Table 3-2: WCDMA Frequency Band Support

Band[a]	Frequency (Tx)	Frequency (Rx)
Band 1	1920–1980 MHz	2110–2170 MHz
Band 2	1850–1910 MHz	1930–1990 MHz
Band 3	1710–1785 MHz	1805–1880 MHz
Band 4	1710–1755 MHz	2110–2155 MHz
Band 5	824–849 MHz	869–894 MHz
Band 8	880–915 MHz	925–960 MHz

a. WCDMA channel spacing is 5 MHz, but this can be adjusted to optimize performance in a particular deployment scenario.

Table 3-3: GNSS Frequency Band Support

Band	Frequency (Rx)
Narrow-band GPS, Galileo	1575.42 MHz
Wide-band GPS + GLONASS	1560–1606 MHz
Narrow-band BeiDou	1561.098 MHz
Narrow-band GLONASS	1601.72 MHz

RF Connections

When attaching antennas to the module:

- Use Hirose U.FL connectors (3 mm x 3 mm, low profile; model U.FL #CL331-0471-0-10) to attach antennas to connection points on the module.
- Match coaxial connections between the module and the antenna to 50 Ω.
- Minimize RF cable losses to the antenna; the recommended maximum cable loss for antenna cabling is 0.5 dB.
- To ensure best thermal performance, mounting holes must be used to attach (ground) the device to the main PCB ground or a metal chassis.

Note: If the antenna connection is shorted or open, the modem will not sustain permanent damage.

Shielding

The module is fully shielded to protect against EMI and must not be removed.

Antenna and Cabling

When selecting the antenna and cable, it is critical to RF performance to match antenna gain and cable loss.

Choosing the Correct Antenna and Cabling

When matching antennas and cabling:

- The antenna (and associated circuitry) should have a nominal impedance of 50 Ω with a recommended return loss of better than 10 dB across each frequency band of operation.
- The system gain value affects both radiated power *and* regulatory (FCC, IC, CE, etc.) test results.

Designing Custom Antennas

Consider the following points when designing custom antennas:

- A skilled RF engineer should do the development to ensure that the RF performance is maintained.
- If both UMTS and CDMA modules will be installed in the same platform, you may want to develop separate antennas for maximum performance.

Determining the Antenna's Location

When deciding where to put the antennas:

- Antenna location may affect RF performance. Although the module is shielded to prevent interference in most applications, the placement of the antenna is still very important—if the host device is insufficiently shielded, high levels of broadband or spurious noise can degrade the module's performance.
- Connecting cables between the module and the antenna must have 50 Ω impedance. If the impedance of the module is mismatched, RF performance is reduced significantly.
- Antenna cables should be routed, if possible, away from noise sources (switching power supplies, LCD assemblies, etc.). If the cables are near the noise sources, the noise may be coupled into the RF cable and into the antenna.

Disabling the Diversity Antenna

Use the AT command **!RXDEN=0** to disable receive diversity or **!RXDEN=1** to enable receive diversity.

Note: A diversity antenna is used to improve connection quality and reliability through redundancy. Because two antennas may experience difference interference effects (signal distortion, delay, etc.), when one antenna receives a degraded signal, the other may not be similarly affected.

Ground Connection

When connecting the module to system ground:

- Prevent noise leakage by establishing a very good ground connection to the module through the host connector.
- Connect to system ground using the two mounting holes at the top of the module.
- Minimize ground noise leakage into the RF.
  Depending on the host board design, noise could *potentially* be coupled to the module from the host board. This is mainly an issue for host designs that have signals traveling along the length of the module, or circuitry operating at both ends of the module interconnects.

Interference and Sensitivity

Several interference sources can affect the module's RF performance (RF desense). Common sources include power supply noise and device-generated RF.

RF desense can be addressed through a combination of mitigation techniques (Methods to Mitigate Decreased Rx Performance on page 10) and radiated sensitivity measurement (Radiated Sensitivity Measurement on page 11).

Note: The MC7455 is based on ZIF (Zero Intermediate Frequency) technologies. When performing EMC (Electromagnetic Compatibility) tests, there are no IF (Intermediate Frequency) components from the module to consider.

Interference From Other Wireless Devices

Wireless devices operating inside the host device can cause interference that affects the module.

To determine the most suitable locations for antennas on your host device, evaluate each wireless device's radio system, considering the following:

- Any harmonics, sub-harmonics, or cross-products of signals generated by wireless devices that fall in the module's Rx range may cause spurious response, resulting in decreased Rx performance.
- The Tx power and corresponding broadband noise of other wireless devices may overload or increase the noise floor of the module's receiver, resulting in Rx desense.

The severity of this interference depends on the closeness of the other antennas to the module's antenna. To determine suitable locations for each wireless device's antenna, thoroughly evaluate your host device's design.

Host-generated RF Interference

All electronic computing devices generate RF interference that can negatively affect the receive sensitivity of the module.

Proximity of host electronics to the antenna in wireless devices can contribute to decreased Rx performance. Components that are most likely to cause this include:

- Microprocessor and memory
- Display panel and display drivers
- Switching-mode power supplies

Device-generated RF Interference

The module can cause interference with other devices. Wireless devices such as AirPrime embedded modules transmit in bursts (pulse transients) for set durations (RF burst frequencies). Hearing aids and speakers convert these burst frequencies into audible frequencies, resulting in audible noise.

Methods to Mitigate Decreased Rx Performance

It is important to investigate sources of localized interference early in the design cycle. To reduce the effect of device-generated RF on Rx performance:

- Put the antenna as far as possible from sources of interference. The drawback is that the module may be less convenient to use.
- Shield the host device. The module itself is well shielded to avoid external interference. However, the antenna cannot be shielded for obvious reasons. In most instances, it is necessary to employ shielding on the components of the host device (such as the main processor and parallel bus) that have the highest RF emissions.
- Filter out unwanted high-order harmonic energy by using discrete filtering on low frequency lines.
- Form shielding layers around high-speed clock traces by using multi-layer PCBs.
- Route antenna cables away from noise sources.

Radiated Spurious Emissions (RSE)

When designing an antenna for use with AirPrime embedded modules, the host device with an AirPrime embedded module must satisfy any applicable standards/local regulatory bodies for radiated spurious emission (RSE) for receive-only mode and for transmit mode (transmitter is operating).

Note that antenna impedance affects radiated emissions, which must be compared against the conducted 50-ohm emissions baseline. (AirPrime embedded modules meet the 50-ohm conducted emissions requirement.)

Radiated Sensitivity Measurement

A wireless host device contains many noise sources that contribute to a reduction in Rx performance.

To determine the extent of any receiver performance desensitization due to self-generated noise in the host device, over-the-air (OTA) or radiated testing is required. This testing can be performed by Sierra Wireless or you can use your own OTA test chamber for in-house testing.

4: Regulatory Compliance and Industry Certifications

This module is designed to meet, and upon commercial release will meet, the requirements of the following regulatory bodies and regulations, where applicable:

- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) of the United States
- The Certification and Engineering Bureau of Industry Canada (IC)
- The National Communications Commission (NCC) of Taiwan, Republic of China
- Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) of Japan
- Radio Equipment and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment (R&TTE) Directive of the European Union

Upon commercial release, the following industry certifications will have been obtained, where applicable:

- GCF
- PTCRB

Additional certifications and details on specific country approvals may be obtained upon customer request—contact your Sierra Wireless account representative for details.

Additional testing and certification may be required for the end product with an embedded MC7455 module and are the responsibility of the OEM. Sierra Wireless offers professional services-based assistance to OEMs with the testing and certification process, if required.

Important Notice

Because of the nature of wireless communications, transmission and reception of data can never be guaranteed. Data may be delayed, corrupted (i.e., have errors) or be totally lost. Although significant delays or losses of data are rare when wireless devices such as the Sierra Wireless module are used in a normal manner with a well-constructed network, the Sierra Wireless module should not be used in situations where failure to transmit or receive data could result in damage of any kind to the user or any other party, including but not limited to personal injury, death, or loss of property. Sierra Wireless and its affiliates accept no responsibility for damages of any kind resulting from delays or errors in data transmitted or received using the Sierra Wireless module, or for failure of the Sierra Wireless module to transmit or receive such data.

Safety and Hazards

Do not operate your MC7455 module:

- In areas where blasting is in progress
- Where explosive atmospheres may be present including refuelling points, fuel depots, and chemical plants
- Near medical equipment, life support equipment, or any equipment which may be susceptible to any form of radio interference. In such areas, the MC7455 module **MUST BE POWERED OFF**. Otherwise, the MC7455 module can transmit signals that could interfere with this equipment.

In an aircraft, the MC7455 module **MUST BE POWERED OFF**. Otherwise, the MC7455 module can transmit signals that could interfere with various onboard systems and may be dangerous to the operation of the aircraft or disrupt the cellular network. Use of a cellular phone in an aircraft is illegal in some jurisdictions. Failure to observe this instruction may lead to suspension or denial of cellular telephone services to the offender, or legal action or both.

Some airlines may permit the use of cellular phones while the aircraft is on the ground and the door is open. The MC7455 module may be used normally at this time.

Important Compliance Information For North American Users

The MC7455 module, upon commercial release, will have been granted modular approval for mobile applications. Integrators may use the MC7455 module in their final products without additional FCC/IC (Industry Canada) certification if they meet the following conditions. Otherwise, additional FCC/IC approvals must be obtained.

1. At least 20 cm separation distance between the antenna and the user's body must be maintained at all times.
2. To comply with FCC/IC regulations limiting both maximum RF output power and human exposure to RF radiation, the maximum antenna gain including cable loss in a mobile-only exposure condition must not exceed the limits stipulated in Table 4-1 on page 13.

Table 4-1: Antenna Gain Specifications

Device	Technology	Band	Frequency (MHz)	Maximum antenna gain (dBi)
MC7455	LTE	2	1850–1910	6
		4	1710–1755	6
		5	824–849	6
		7	2500–2570	9
		8[a]	897.5–900.5	10
		12	699–716	6
		13	777–787	6
		25	1850–1915	6
		26	814–849	6
		30	2305–2315	1
		41	2496–2690	9
	UMTS	2	1850–1910	6
		4	1710–1755	6
		5	824–849	6

a. LTE B8 supported in USA only

3. The MC7455 module may transmit simultaneously with other collocated radio transmitters within a host device, provided the following conditions are met:
   - Each collocated radio transmitter has been certified by FCC/IC for mobile application.
   - At least 20 cm separation distance between the antennas of the collocated transmitters and the user's body must be maintained at all times.
   - The radiated power of a collocated transmitter must not exceed the EIRP limits stipulated in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2: Collocated Radio Transmitter Specifications

Device	Technology	Frequency (MHz)	EIRP Limit (dBm)
Collocated transmitters[a]	WLAN	2400–2500	25
		5150–5850	27
	WiMAX	2300–2400	25
		2500–2700	25
		3300–3800	25
	BT	2400–2500	15

a. Valid collocated transmitter combinations: WLAN+BT; WiMAX+BT. (WLAN+WiMAX+BT is not permitted.)

4. A label must be affixed to the outside of the end product into which the MC7455 module is incorporated, with a statement similar to the following:
   - **This device contains FCC ID: N7NMC7455**
     Contains transmitter module IC: 2417C-MC7455 where 2417C-MC7455 is the module's certification number.
5. A user manual with the end product must clearly indicate the operating requirements and conditions that must be observed to ensure compliance with current FCC/IC RF exposure guidelines.

The end product with an embedded MC7455 module may also need to pass the FCC Part 15 unintentional emission testing requirements and be properly authorized per FCC Part 15.

Note: If this module is intended for use in a portable device, you are responsible for separate approval to satisfy the SAR requirements of FCC Part 2.1093 and IC RSS-102.

5: Acronyms

Table 5-1: Acronyms and Definitions

Acronym or term	Definition
3GPP	3rd Generation Partnership Project
BeiDou	BeiDou Navigation Satellite System A Chinese system that uses a series of satellites in geostationary and middle earth orbits to provide navigational data.
BER	Bit Error Rate—A measure of receive sensitivity
BLER	Block Error Rate
dB	Decibel = 10 x $\log_{10}$ (P1/P2) *P1 is calculated power; P2 is reference power* Decibel = 20 x $\log_{10}$ (V1/V2) *V1 is calculated voltage, V2 is reference voltage*
dBm	A logarithmic (base 10) measure of relative power (dB for decibels); relative to milliwatts (m). A dBm value will be 30 units (1000 times) larger (less negative) than a dBW value, because of the difference in scale (milliwatts vs. watts).
DC-HSPA+	Dual Carrier HSPA+
EMC	Electromagnetic Compatibility
EMI	Electromagnetic Interference
FCC	Federal Communications Commission The U.S. federal agency that is responsible for interstate and foreign communications. The FCC regulates commercial and private radio spectrum management, sets rates for communications services, determines standards for equipment, and controls broadcast licensing. Consult www.fcc.gov.
Galileo	A European system that uses a series of satellites in middle earth orbit to provide navigational data.
GCF	Global Certification Forum
GLONASS	Global Navigation Satellite System—A Russian system that uses a series of 24 satellites in middle circular orbit to provide navigational data.
GNSS	Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GPS, GLONASS, BeiDou, and Galileo)
GPS	Global Positioning System An American system that uses a series of 24 satellites in middle circular orbit to provide navigational data.
Host	The device into which an embedded module is integrated
HSDPA	High Speed Downlink Packet Access
HSPA+	Enhanced HSPA, as defined in 3GPP Release 7 and beyond
HSUPA	High Speed Uplink Packet Access
Hz	Hertz = 1 cycle/second

Table 5-1: Acronyms and Definitions (Continued)

Acronym or term	Definition
IC	Industry Canada
IF	Intermediate Frequency
IS	Interim Standard. After receiving industry consensus, the TIA forwards the standard to ANSI for approval.
LTE	Long Term Evolution—a high-performance air interface for cellular mobile communication systems.
MHz	Megahertz = 10e6 Hz
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer—a company that manufactures a product and sells it to a reseller.
OTA	'Over the air' (or radiated through the antenna)
PCB	Printed Circuit Board
PCS	Personal Communication System A cellular communication infrastructure that uses the 1.9 GHz radio spectrum.
PTCRB	PCS Type Certification Review Board
RF	Radio Frequency
RSE	Radiated Spurious Emissions
Sensitivity (RF)	Measure of lowest power signal at the receiver input that can provide a prescribed BER/BLER/SNR value at the receiver output.
SNR	Signal-to-Noise Ratio
TIA/EIA	Telecommunications Industry Association / Electronics Industry Association. A standards setting trade organization, whose members provide communications and information technology products, systems, distribution services and professional services in the United States and around the world. Consult www.tiaonline.org.
UMTS	Universal Mobile Telecommunications System
USB	Universal Serial Bus
VCC	Supply voltage
WCDMA	Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (also referred to as UMTS)
WLAN	Wireless Local Area Network
ZIF	Zero Intermediate Frequency