

# Operating Manual

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## n2420B

2400 MHz Spread Spectrum OEM  
Transceiver

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 Microhard Systems Inc.

Phone: (403) 248-0028

Fax: (403) 248-2762

[www.microhardcorp.com](http://www.microhardcorp.com)

**Model: N2420B**

## Warranty

Microhard Systems Inc. warrants that each product will be free of defects in material and workmanship for a period of one (1) year for its products. The warranty commences on the date the product is shipped by Microhard Systems Inc. Microhard Systems Inc.'s sole liability and responsibility under this warranty is to repair or replace any product which is returned to it by the Buyer and which Microhard Systems Inc. determines does not conform to the warranty. Product returned to Microhard Systems Inc. for warranty service will be shipped to Microhard Systems Inc. at Buyer's expense and will be returned to Buyer at Microhard Systems Inc.'s expense. In no event shall Microhard Systems Inc. be responsible under this warranty for any defect which is caused by negligence, misuse or mistreatment of a product or for any unit which has been altered or modified in any way. The warranty of replacement shall terminate with the warranty of the product.

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## N2420B Regulatory Requirements



### **WARNING:**

To satisfy FCC RF exposure requirements for both base and mobile a separation distance of 23 cm or more should be maintained between the antenna of this device and persons during device operation. To ensure compliance, operations at closer than this distance is not recommended. The antenna used for this transmitter must not be co-located in conjunction with any other antenna or transmitter.



### **WARNING:**

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by Microhard Systems Inc. could void the user's authority to operate the equipment. This device has been tested with MMCX and Reverse Polarity SMA connectors with the antennas listed in Appendix A. When integrated in OEM products, fixed antennas require installation preventing end-users from replacing them with non-approved antennas. Antennas not listed in the tables must be tested to comply with FCC Section 15.203 (unique antenna connectors) and Section 15.247 (emissions).



### **WARNING:**

To ensure compliance with all non-transmitter functions the host manufacturer is responsible for ensuring compliance with the module(s) installed and fully operational. For example, if a host was previously authorized as an unintentional radiator under the Declaration of Conformity procedure without a transmitter certified module and a module is added, the host manufacturer is responsible for ensuring that after the module is installed and operational the host continues to be compliant with the Part 15B unintentional radiator requirements. Since this may depend on the details of how the module is integrated with the host, the grantee (the party responsible for the module grant) shall provide guidance to the host manufacturer for compliance with the Part 15B requirements.



### **WARNING:**

#### **MAXIMUM EIRP**

FCC Regulations allow up to 36 dBm equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP). Therefore, the sum of the transmitted power (in dBm), the cabling loss and the antenna gain cannot exceed 36 dBm.



### **WARNING:**

#### **EQUIPMENT LABELING**

The FCC and IC numbers depend on the model of the radio module. Do NOT use the Marketing Name of the product but the Model to distinguish the Certifications Numbers. This device has been modularly approved. The manufacturer, product name, and FCC and Industry Canada identifiers of this product must appear on the outside label of the end-user equipment.

### **SAMPLE LABEL REQUIREMENT for Model: N2420B:**

#### **Contains:**

**FCCID: NS911P31 IC : 3143A-11P31**

**This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:  
(1) this device may not cause harmful interference,  
and (2) this device must accept any interference received including interference that may cause undesired operation.**

## N2420B Exigences Réglementaires

### ATTENTION:

Pour satisfaire aux exigences de la FCC d'exposition RF pour la base et mobiles sur une distance de séparation de 23 cm ou plus doit être maintenue entre l'antenne de cet appareil et des personnes lors de fonctionnement du dispositif. Pour assurer la conformité des opérations au plus près que cette distance n'est pas recommandée. L'antenne utilisée pour ce transmetteur ne doit pas être co-localisés en conjonction avec toute autre antenne ou transmetteur.

### ATTENTION:

Les changements ou modifications non expressément approuvés par Microhard Systems Inc pourrait annuler l'autorité de l'utilisateur de faire fonctionner l'équipement. Cet appareil a été testé avec MMCX et Reverse connecteurs SMA à polarité avec les antennes énumérées dans l'annexe A Lorsqu'il est intégré dans les produits OEM, des antennes fixes nécessitent l'installation empêchant les utilisateurs finaux de les remplacer par des antennes non approuvées. Antennes ne figurant pas dans les tableaux doivent être testés pour satisfaire aux normes FCC section 15.203 (unique connecteurs d'antenne) et l'article 15.247 (émissions).

### ATTENTION:

Pour assurer la conformité avec toutes les fonctions non-émetteur du fabricant hôte est responsable de veiller au respect des module (s) installé et pleinement opérationnel. Par exemple, si un hôte a été préalablement autorisé comme un radiateur involontaires vertu de la Déclaration de la procédure de conformité, sans un module émetteur et d'un module certifié est ajouté, le fabricant d'hôte est responsable de s'assurer que les fois que le module est installé et opérationnel de l'hôte continue à être conforme à la partie 15B exigences rayonnement non intentionnel. Depuis cela peut dépendre des détails sur la façon dont le module est intégré avec l'hôte, le bénéficiaire (la partie responsable de la subvention du module) doit fournir des orientations aux fabricants d'hôte pour le respect de la partie 15B exigences.

### ATTENTION:

#### MAXIMUM EIRP

Règlement de la FCC permettent jusqu'à 36 équivalents dBm la puissance isotrope rayonnée équivalente (EIRP). Par conséquent, la somme de la puissance transmise (en dBm), la perte de câblage et le gain d'antenne ne peut pas dépasser 36 dBm.

### ATTENTION:

#### EQUIPEMENT D'ÉTIQUETAGE

La FCC et IC chiffres varient selon le modèle du module radio. Ne pas utiliser le nom marketing du produit, mais le modèle pour distinguer les numéros Certifications. Cet appareil a été approuvée de manière modulaire. Le fabricant, le nom du produit et de la FCC et Industrie Canada, les identifiants de ce produit doit figurer sur l'étiquette en dehors de l'équipement de l'utilisateur final.

#### EXIGENCE D'ÉTIQUETTE pour le modèle: N2420B:

##### Contient:

FCCID: NS911P31 IC : 3143A-11P31

Cet appareil est conforme à la Partie 15 des règlements de la FCC. L'opération est soumise aux deux conditions suivantes: (1) cet appareil ne peut pas causer d'interférences nuisibles, et (2) cet appareil doit accepter toute interférence reçue, y compris les interférences qui peuvent provoquer un fonctionnement indésirable.

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## **FCC User Notice Sec 15.105:**

**NOTE:** This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

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## **FCC Avis utilisateur Sec 15.105:**

**REMARQUE:** Cet équipement a été testé et trouvé conforme aux limites pour un appareil numérique de classe B, conformément à la partie 15 des règlements de la FCC. Ces limites sont conçues pour fournir une protection raisonnable contre les interférences nuisibles dans une installation résidentielle. Cet équipement génère, utilise et peut émettre des fréquences radio et, s'il n'est pas installé et utilisé conformément aux instructions, peut provoquer des interférences nuisibles aux communications radio. Cependant, il n'existe aucune garantie que ces interférences ne se produiront pas dans une installation particulière. Si cet équipement cause des interférences nuisibles à la réception radio ou télévision, qui peut être déterminé en mettant l'équipement hors tension, l'utilisateur est encouragé à essayer de corriger l'interférence par une ou plusieurs des mesures suivantes:

- Réorienter ou déplacer l'antenne réceptrice.
- Augmenter la distance entre l'équipement et le récepteur.
- Connecter l'équipement à une sortie sur un circuit différent de celui auquel le récepteur est connecté.
- Consulter le revendeur ou un technicien radio / TV qualifié.

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# 2. General

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## 2.0 Product Overview

The N2420B is a high-performance embedded wireless data transceiver. Operating in the 2400 - 2483.5 MHz ISM band, this a spread-spectrum module is capable of providing reliable wireless data transfer between almost any type of equipment. The small-size and superior RF performance of this module make it ideal for many applications.

While a pair of N2420B modules can link two terminal devices (“point-to-point” operation); multiple modules can be used together to create a network of various topologies, including “point-to-multipoint” and “repeater” operation. Multiple independent networks can operate concurrently, so it is possible for unrelated communications to take place in the same or a nearby area without sacrificing privacy or reliability.

## 1.1 Features

Key features of the N2420B include:

- transmission within a public, license-exempt band of the radio spectrum<sup>1</sup> – this means that it can be used without access fees (such as those incurred by cellular airtime).
- a serial I/O data port with handshaking and hardware flow control, allowing the N2420B to interface directly to any equipment with an asynchronous serial interface.
- ease of installation and use – the N2420B module uses a subset of standard AT style commands, very similar to those used by traditional telephone line modems.
- all units in a system are physically identical, and can be configured as a master, repeater or slave using the AT command set. No hardware modifications are required
- 128 sets of user-selectable pseudo-random hopping patterns, intelligently designed to offer the possibility of separately operating multiple networks while providing security, reliability and high tolerance to interference.
- encryption key with 65536 user-selectable values to maximize security and privacy of communications.
- 32-bit of CRC error detection and auto re-transmit to provide accuracy and reliability of data.

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<sup>1</sup> 902-928 MHz, which is license-free within North America; may need to be factory-configured differently for some countries.

- TDMA (time division multiple access) support, allowing multi-slave access in point-to-point mode.
- roaming ability, allowing repeaters and slaves to re-synchronize with a new master if the synchronization pulse from the original master is lost.

While the typical application for the N2420B is to provide a short- to mid-range wireless communications link between DTEs, it can be adapted to almost any situation where an asynchronous serial interface is used and data intercommunication is required.

## 2.1 Output Power Level

The Output Power Level determines at what power the N2420B transmits. The N2420B's sensitive receiver can operate with very low power levels, so it is recommended that the lowest power necessary is used; using excessive power contributes to unnecessary "RF pollution".

Ideally, you should test the communications performance between units starting from a low power level and working upward until the RSSI is sufficiently high and a reliable link is established. The conditions will vary widely between applications, the output power settings can be calculated based on following information.

- Transmitter antenna gain
- Cable loss
- Equivalent Isotropically Radiated Power (EIRP) requirement by FCC Regulations

$$\text{Power Setting} = 36 - \text{Antenna Gain} - \text{Cable Loss}$$

The power setting must be no more than the above calculation value. Any higher is a violation of FCC rules. See IMPORTANT warning below.

**Table 1 Output Power**

Power Setting (dBm)	Approx. Output Power (mW)
0	1
20	100
21	125
22	160
23	200
24	250
25	320
26	400
27	500
28	630
29	800
30	1000



# 3. Installation

## 3.0 Overview

**Qualified and experienced personnel must carry out the installation, removal or maintenance of all antenna components.**

The N2420B complies with FCC part 15 at the modular level for operation in the license-free 2400-2483.5 MHz ISM band. This chapter provides guidelines for installing and deploying equipment which incorporates the N2420B module.

## 3.1 Estimating the Gain Margin

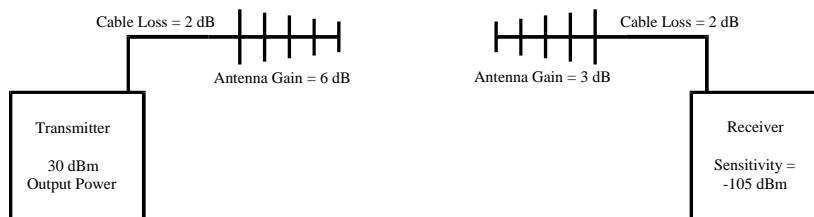
Successful communication between N2420B modules is dependent on three main factors:

- System Gain
- Path Loss
- Interference

System gain is a calculation in dB describing the performance to be expected between a transmitter-receiver pair. The number can be calculated based on knowledge of the equipment being deployed. The following four factors make up a system gain calculation:

1. Transmitter power (user selectable)
2. Transmitter gain (transmitting antenna gain minus cabling loss between the transmitting antenna and the N2420B module)
3. Receiver gain (Receiving antenna gain minus cabling loss between the receiving antenna and the module)
4. Receiver sensitivity (Specified as -108dBm on the N2420B module)

In the following illustration, the transmitting antenna has a gain of 6 dB, and the receiving antenna has a gain of 3 dB. The cable loss between the module and the antenna is 2 dB on both the transmitting and receiving side.

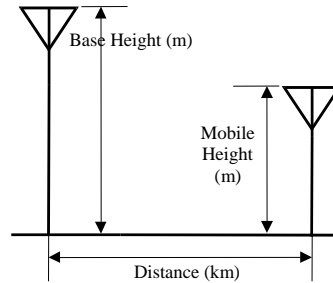


### Figure 1 Gain Calculation

The power level has been set to 30dBm (1W) on the transmitter, and the receiver sensitivity for the N2420B is -108dBm.

System gain would be calculated to be:

$$30 - 2 + 6 + 3 - 2 + 108 = 143 \text{ dB.}$$



### Figure 2 System Deploying

When deploying your system, care must be taken to ensure the **path loss** (reduction of signal strength from transmitter to receiver in dB) between equipment does not exceed the system gain (140 dB in the above example). It is recommended to design for a **gain margin** of at least 20 dB to ensure reliable communication. Gain margin is the difference between system gain and path loss. Referring to the same example, suppose the path loss is 100 dB, the gain margin would be 40 dB, which is more than adequate for reliable communication.

Path loss is a very complicated calculation which mainly depends on the terrain profile, and the height of the antennas off the ground.

The following table provides path loss numbers for varying antenna heights and antenna separation: These numbers are real averages taken from rural environments. They do not apply to urban, non-line-of-sight environments.

**Table 2 Path Loss**

Distance (km)	Base Height (m)	Mobile Height (m)	Path Loss (dB)
5	15	2.5	116.5
5	30	2.5	110.9
8	15	2.5	124.1
8	15	5	117.7
8	15	10	105
16	15	2.5	135.3
16	15	5	128.9
16	15	10	116.2
16	30	10	109.6
16	30	5	122.4
16	30	2.5	128.8

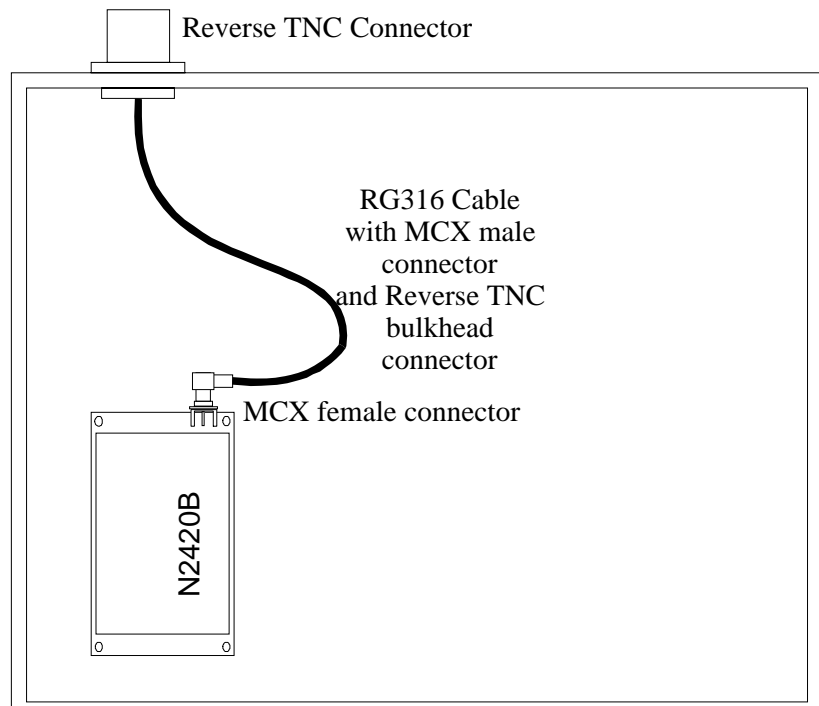
Once the equipment is deployed, you can verify the signal strength by entering into Command Mode and reading Register S123. This register provides the average signal strength in dBm. The minimum strength for communication is roughly -108dBm. For consistent reliable communication, you should try to deploy the equipment such that signal strength exceeds -95dBm.

## 3.2 Antennas and Cabling

This section describes the recommended procedure for installing cabling and antennas for use with the N2420B module.

### 3.2.1 Internal Cabling

The most common method for installing the module is to run a cable from the module's MCX connector to a reverse TNC bulkhead connector on the chassis of the equipment as shown in Figure 3. This cable can be purchased from Microhard Systems.



**Figure 3 Suggested Internal Cabling**

Cable losses are negligible for the short piece used within the chassis. Additional losses up to 0.5 dB may be present in the MCX and Reverse TNC connections.



**WARNING:**

To satisfy FCC RF exposure requirements for mobile transmitting devices, a separation distance of 23 cm or more should be maintained between the antenna of this device and persons during device operation. To ensure compliance, operations at closer than this distance is not recommended. The antenna used for this transmitter must not be co-located in conjunction with any other antenna or transmitter.



**WARNING:**

Direct human contact with the antenna is potentially unhealthy when the N2420B is generating RF energy. Always ensure that the N2420B equipment is powered down during installation.



**WARNING:**

Never work on an antenna system when there is lightning in the area.

### 3.2.2 Installing External Cables, Antennas and Lightning Arrestors

Never work on an antenna system when there is lightning in the area.

Direct human contact with the antenna is potentially unhealthy when the N2420B is generating RF energy. Always ensure that the N2420B equipment is powered down during installation. At all times a distance of 23 cm must be maintained between the antenna and any person when the device is in operation.

#### Surge Arrestors

The most effective protection against lightning is to install two lightning (surge) arrestors, one at the antenna, the other one at the interface with the equipment. The surge arrestor grounding system should be fully interconnected with the transmission tower and power grounding systems to form a single, fully integrated ground circuit. Typically, both ports on surge arrestors are N-female.

#### External Filter

Although the N2420B is capable of filtering out RF noise in most environments, there are circumstances that require external filtering. Paging towers and cellular base stations in close proximity to the N2420B antenna can desensitize the receiver. Microhard Systems' external cavity filter eliminates this problem. The filter has two N-female ports and should be connected in line at the interface to the RF equipment.

#### Weatherproofing

Type N and RTNC connectors are not weatherproof. All connectors should be taped with rubber splicing tape (weatherproofing tape), and then coated with a sealant.

#### Cabling

The following coax cables are recommended:

**Table 3 Cable Loss**

Cable	Loss (dB/100ft)
LMR 195	10.7
LMR 400	3.9
LMR 600	2.5

Factors to take into consideration when choosing a cable are:

- price;
- bend radius limitations (the lower performance cables generally can bend more sharply)
- performance requirements; and,
- distance between the equipment and the antenna.



**WARNING:**

**MAXIMUM EIRP**  
FCC and IC Regulations allow up to 36dBm equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP). Therefore, the sum of the transmitted power (in dBm), the cabling loss and the antenna gain cannot exceed 36 dBm with respect to the isotropic radiator.



**WARNING:**

The N2420B can only be used with any antennas listed in Appendix A.



**WARNING:**

Be careful with dBi vs dBd gains on antenna specifications. Antenna manufactures may not clearly indicate the gain on the antenna if it is dBd or dBi. Note 1dBd = 2.15dBi.

When installing the cable, always begin fastening at the top near the antenna connector/surge arrestor. The cable must be supported at the top with a hose clamp or wrap lock, and at 5 ft intervals down the length of the tower. Over-tightening the fasteners will dent the cable and reduce performance. If properly grounded surge arrestors are not installed at both the top and the bottom of the cable, then the cable should be grounded to the tower at these locations using a cable grounding kit. If the tower is non-conductive, then a separate conductor, physically separate from the cable, should be run down the tower.

**Antenna**

Before choosing an antenna, you should have some knowledge of the path loss and the topology of the equipment. If the equipment is in a fixed location and is to communicate with only one other unit also in a fixed location, then a Yagi antenna is suitable. Choose a Yagi with enough gain to ensure adequate gain margin. When deploying the Yagi, point the antenna towards the intended target, ensuring the antenna elements are perpendicular to the ground for vertical polarization.

In applications where there are multiple units that you must communicate with or units, which are in motion, you may select an Omni-directional antenna with appropriate gain.

**See appendix A for a list of approved antennas that can be used with the N2420B radio modem. If you require another type of antenna please contact Microhard Systems Inc. The N2420B CANNOT be used with any antenna that does not appear in Appendix A.**

Microhard Systems Inc. can provide you with approved antennas to ensure FCC and Industry Canada compliance.

**FCC Regulations allow up to 36dBm effective radiated power (EIRP). Therefore, the sum of the transmitted power (in dBm), the cabling loss and the antenna gain cannot exceed 36dBm with respect to the isotropic radiator.**

EIRP is calculated as follows:

$$\text{EIRP} = \text{Tx Power(dBm)} - \text{Cable/Connector Loss(dB)} + \text{Ant Gain(dBi)}$$

**Antenna Gains must be in dBi when calculating the 36dBm EIRP limit.**

$$1\text{dBd} = 2.15\text{dBi}$$

Use the guidelines in the previous section for calculating cable and connector losses. If cabling and connector losses are 2 dB, then the maximum allowable gain of the antenna will be 8 dB.

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**Examples:**

**FCC and Industry Canada Regulations allow up to 36dBm equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP). Therefore, the sum of the transmitted power (in dBm), the cabling loss and the antenna gain cannot exceed 36dBm with respect to the isotropic radiator.**

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**Example 1)**

**What is the maximum power the N2420B can be set to comply with FCC and IC given the following equipment given a Rubber Ducky Ant Gain 2dBi and no cable or connectors in the system?**

Max EIRP 36dBm

Max TX power = EIRP – Ant Gain(dBi) + Cable/Connector loss (dB)

Ant Gain dBi = 2dBi

Max TX power = 36dBm – 2dBi + 0dB = 34dBm

We can set the modem to the maximum power setting of 30dBm.

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**Example 2)**

**What is the maximum power the N2420B can be set to comply with FCC and IC given the following equipment given a Yagi Ant Gain 12dBd and cable and connector loss of 4.5 dB?**

Max EIRP 36dBm

Max TX power = EIRP – Ant Gain(dBi) + Cable/Connector loss (dB)

Ant Gain dBi = Ant Gain dBd + 2.15 dB

Yagi Gain (dBi) = 12 + 2.15 = 14.15dBi

Max TX power = 36dBm – 14.15dB + 4.5dB = 26.35dBm

We must round down

Hence Max TX power = 26dBm

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**Example 3)**

**What is the maximum power the N2420B can be set to comply with FCC and IC given the following equipment given a Omni Ant Gain 6dBd and cable and connector loss of 2.5 dB?**

Max EIRP 36dBm

Max TX power = EIRP – Ant Gain(dBi) + Cable/Connector loss (dB)

Ant Gain dBi = Ant Gain dBd + 2.15 dB

Omni Gain (dBi) = 6 + 2.15 = 8.15dBi

Max TX power = 36dBm – 8.15dB + 2.5dB = 30.35dBm

Hence Max TX power = 30dBm

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# A. Approved Antennas

Group	Part Number	Description
<b>Rubber Ducky</b>		
	MHS031100	2dBi, 2.4GHz Rubber Ducky Antenna RPTNC Swivel
	MHS031110	2dBi, 2.4GHz Rubber Ducky Antenna Reverse SMA Swivel
	MHS031120	2dBi, 2.4GHz Rubber Ducky Antenna Reverse SMA Straight
<b>Patch Antennas</b>		
	MHS034200	8 dBi, 2.4GHz Mini Flat Patch Directional Antenna RPTNC Pigtail
	MHS034210	14 dBi, 2.4GHz Flat Patch Directional Antenna RPTNC Pigtail
<b>Yagi Antennas</b>		
	MHS034100	9 dBi, 2.4GHz Yagi Directional Antenna RPTNC Pigtail
	MHS034110	12 dBi, 2.4GHz Yagi Directional Antenna RPTNC Pigtail
	MHS034120	14 dBi, 2.4GHz Yagi Directional Antenna RPTNC Pigtail
	MHS034150	14.5 dBi, 2.4GHz Yagi Directional Antenna RPTNC Pigtail
<b>Omni Directional</b>		
	MHS031260	5 dBi, Omni Directional Antenna RPTNC Pigtail
	MHS034000	6 dBi, 2.4GHz Omni Directional Antenna RPTNC Pigtail
	MHS031340	8 dBi, Omni Directional Antenna RPTNC Pigtail
	MHS034020	10.5 dBi, 2.4GHz Omni Directional Antenna RPTNC Pigtail
	MHS034030	12 dBi, 2.4GHz Omni Directional Antenna RPTNC Pigtail
	MHS034040	15 dBi, 2.4GHz Omni Directional Antenna RPTNC Pigtail



## ATTENTION:

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by Microhard Systems Inc. could void the user's authority to operate the equipment. This device has been tested with MMCX and Reverse Polarity SMA connectors with the antennas listed in Appendix A. When integrated in OEM products, fixed antennas require installation preventing end-users from replacing them with non-approved antennas. Antennas not listed in the tables must be tested to comply with FCC Section 15.203 (unique antenna connectors) and Section 15.247 (emissions). Please Contact Microhard Systems Inc. if you need more information.

### RSS-Gen Notices for Transmitter Antenna

*Under Industry Canada regulations, this radio transmitter may only operate using an antenna of a type and maximum (or lesser) gain approved for the transmitter by Industry Canada. To reduce potential radio interference to other users, the antenna type and its gain should be so chosen that the equivalent isotropically radiated power (e.i.r.p.) is not more than that necessary for successful communication.*

*This radio transmitter (IC:3143A-11P31) has been approved by Industry Canada to operate with the antenna types listed below with the maximum permissible gain and required antenna impedance for each antenna type indicated. Antenna types not included in this list, having a gain greater than the maximum gain indicated for that type, are strictly prohibited for use with this device.*

*Conformément à la réglementation d'Industrie Canada, le présent émetteur radio peut fonctionner avec une antenne d'un type et d'un gain maximal (ou inférieur) approuvé pour l'émetteur par Industrie Canada. Dans le but de réduire les risques de brouillage radioélectrique à l'intention des autres utilisateurs, il faut choisir le type d'antenne et son gain de sorte que la puissance isotrope rayonnée équivalente (p.i.r.e.) ne dépasse pas l'intensité nécessaire à l'établissement d'une communication satisfaisante.*

*Le présent émetteur radio (IC:3143A-11P31) a été approuvé par Industrie Canada pour fonctionner avec les types d'antenne énumérés ci-dessous et ayant un gain admissible maximal et l'impédance requise pour chaque type d'antenne. Les types d'antenne non inclus dans cette liste, ou dont le gain est supérieur au gain maximal indiqué, sont strictement interdits pour l'exploitation de l'émetteur.*