

§ 1.9035 Short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangements.

(a) *Overview.* Under the provisions of this section, a licensee (in any of the included services) and a spectrum lessee may enter into a short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement in which the licensee retains *de jure* control of the license while *de facto* control of the leased spectrum is transferred to the spectrum lessee for the duration of the spectrum leasing arrangement, subject to prior Commission consent pursuant to the application procedures set forth in this section. A “short-term” *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement has an individual or combined term of not longer than one year. The term of a short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement may be no longer than the term of the license authorization.

(b) *Rights and responsibilities of licensee.* The rights and responsibilities applicable to a licensee that enters into a short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement are the same as those applicable to a licensee that enters into a long-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement, as set forth in § 1.9030(b).

(c) *Rights and responsibilities of spectrum lessee.* The rights and responsibilities applicable to a spectrum lessee that enters into a short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement are the same as those applicable to a spectrum lessee that enters into a long-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement, as set forth in § 1.9030(c).

(d) *Applicability of particular service rules and policies.* Under a short-term *de facto* leasing arrangement, the service rules and policies apply to the licensee and spectrum lessee in the same manner as under long-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangements (see § 1.9030(d)), except as provided herein:

(1) *Use restrictions and regulatory classification.* Use restrictions applicable to the licensee also apply to the spectrum lessee except that § 20.9(a) of this chapter shall not preclude a licensee in the services covered by that rule from entering into a spectrum leasing arrangement with a spectrum lessee that chooses to operate on a PMRS, private, or non-commercial basis, and except that a licensee with an authorization

that restricts use of spectrum to non-commercial uses may enter into a short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement that allows the spectrum lessee to use the spectrum commercially.

(2) *Designated entity/entrepreneur rules.* Unjust enrichment provisions (see § 1.2111) and transfer restrictions (see § 24.839 of this chapter) do not apply with regard to a short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement.

(3) *Construction/performance requirements.* The licensee is not permitted to attribute to itself the activities of its spectrum lessee when seeking to establish that performance or build-out requirements applicable to the licensee have been met.

(4) *E911 requirements.* If E911 obligations apply to the licensee (see § 20.18 of this chapter), the licensee retains the obligations with respect to leased spectrum. A spectrum lessee entering into a short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement is not separately required to comply with any such obligations in relation to the leased spectrum.

(e) *Spectrum leasing application.* Short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangements will be processed pursuant to immediate approval procedures, as discussed herein. Parties entering into a short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement are required to file an electronic application with the Commission, using FCC Form 608, and obtain Commission consent prior to consummating the transfer of *de facto* control of the leased spectrum, except that parties falling within the provisions of § 1.913(d) may file the application either electronically or manually.

(1) To be accepted for filing under these immediate approval procedures, the application must be sufficiently complete and contain all information and certifications requested on the applicable form, FCC Form 608, including any information and certifications (including those relating to the spectrum lessee relating to eligibility, basic qualifications, and foreign ownership) required by the rules of this chapter and any rules pertaining to the specific service for which the application is required. In addition, the application must include payment of the required

application fee; for purposes of determining the applicable application fee, the application will be treated as a transfer of control (*see* §1.1102). Finally, the spectrum leasing arrangement must not require a waiver of, or declaratory ruling, pertaining to any applicable Commission rules.

(2) Provided that the application establishes that it meets all of the requisite elements to qualify for these immediate approval procedures, consent to the short-term *de facto* transfer spectrum leasing arrangement will be reflected in ULS. If the application is filed electronically, consent will be reflected in ULS on the next business day after filing of the application; if filed manually, consent will be reflected in ULS on the next business day after the necessary data from the manually filed application is entered into ULS. Consent to the application is not deemed granted until the Bureau affirmatively acts upon the application, as reflected in ULS.

(3) Grant of consent to the application under these procedures will be reflected in a public notice (*see* §1.933(a)) promptly issued after grant, and is subject to reconsideration (*see* §§1.106(f), 1.108, 1.113).

(f) *Effective date of spectrum leasing arrangement.* The spectrum leasing arrangement will be deemed effective in the Commission's records, and for purposes of the application of the rules set forth in this section, on the date set forth in the application. If the Commission consents to the arrangement after that specified date, the spectrum leasing application will become effective on the date of the Commission affirmative consent.

(g) *Restrictions on the use of short-term de facto transfer leasing arrangements.* (1) The licensee and spectrum lessee are not permitted to use the special rules and expedited procedures applicable to short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangements for arrangements that in fact will exceed one year, or that the parties reasonably expect to exceed one year.

(2) The licensee and spectrum lessee must submit, in sufficient time prior to the expiration of the short-term *de facto* transfer spectrum leasing arrangement, the appropriate application

under the rules and procedures applicable to long-term *de facto* leasing arrangements, and obtain Commission consent pursuant to those procedures.

(h) *Expiration, extension, or termination of the spectrum leasing arrangement.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (h)(2) or (h)(3) of this section, a spectrum leasing arrangement entered into pursuant to this section will expire on the termination date set forth in the short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement. The Commission's approval of the short-term *de facto* transfer leasing application includes consent to return the leased spectrum to the licensee at the end of the term of the spectrum leasing arrangement.

(2) Upon proper application (*see* paragraph (e) of this section), a short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement may be extended beyond the initial term set forth in the application provided that the initial term and extension(s) together would not result in a leasing arrangement that exceeds a total of one year.

(3) If a spectrum leasing arrangement is terminated earlier than the termination date set forth in the notification, either by the licensee or by the parties' mutual agreement, the licensee must file a notification with the Commission, no later than ten (10) days after the early termination, indicating the date of the termination. If the parties fail to put the spectrum leasing arrangement into effect, they must so notify the Commission consistent with the provisions of this section.

(i) *Conversion of a short-term spectrum leasing arrangement into a long-term de facto transfer leasing arrangement.* (1) In the event the licensee and spectrum lessee involved in a short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement seek to extend the spectrum leasing arrangement beyond the one-year limit for short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangements, the parties may do so provided that they meet the conditions set forth in paragraphs (i)(2) and (i)(3) of this section.

(2) If a licensee that holds a license that continues to be subject to transfer restrictions and/or requirements relating to unjust enrichment pursuant to the Commission's small business and/or entrepreneur provisions (*see* §1.2110 and

§ 24.709 of this chapter) seeks to extend a short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement with its spectrum lessee (or related entities, as determined pursuant to § 1.2110(b)(2)) beyond one year, it may convert its arrangement into a long-term *de facto* transfer spectrum leasing arrangement provided that it complies with the procedures for entering into a long-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement and that it pays any unjust enrichment that would have been owed had the licensee filed a long-term *de facto* transfer spectrum leasing application at the time it applied for the initial short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement.

(3) The licensee and spectrum lessee are not permitted to convert a short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement into a long-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement if the parties would have been restricted, in the first instance, from entering into a long-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement because of a transfer, use, or other restriction applicable to the particular service (see § 1.9030).

(j) *Assignment of spectrum leasing arrangement.* The rule applicable to long-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangements (see § 1.9030(g)) applies in the same manner to short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangements.

(k) *Transfer of control of spectrum lessee.* The rule applicable to long-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangements (see § 1.9030(h)) applies in the same manner to short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangements.

(l) *Revocation or automatic cancellation of a license or the spectrum lessee's operating authority.* The rule applicable to long-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangements (see § 1.9030(i)) applies in the same manner to short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangements.

(m) *Subleasing.* A spectrum lessee that has entered into a short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangement is not permitted to enter into a spectrum subleasing arrangement.

(n) *Renewal.* The rule applicable with regard to long-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangements (see § 1.9030(l)) applies in the same manner to short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangements, except that the renewal of the short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrange-

ment to extend into the term of the renewed license authorization cannot enable the combined terms of the short-term *de facto* transfer leasing arrangements to exceed one year. The Commission must be notified of the renewal of the spectrum leasing arrangement at the same time that the licensee submits its application for license renewal (see § 1.949).

[68 FR 66277, Nov. 25, 2003, as amended at 69 FR 77557, Dec. 27, 2004]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 69 FR 77557, Dec. 27, 2004, § 1.9035(e) was revised. This paragraph contains information collection and recordkeeping requirements and will not become effective until approval has been given by the Office of Management and Budget.

§ 1.9040 Contractual requirements applicable to spectrum leasing arrangements.

(a) Agreements between licensees and spectrum lessees concerning spectrum leasing arrangements entered into pursuant to the rules of this subpart must contain the following provisions:

(1) The spectrum lessee must comply at all times with applicable rules set forth in this chapter and other applicable law, and the spectrum leasing arrangement may be revoked, cancelled, or terminated by the licensee or Commission if the spectrum lessee fails to comply with the applicable requirements;

(2) If the license is revoked, cancelled, terminated, or otherwise ceases to be in effect, the spectrum lessee has no continuing authority or right to use the leased spectrum unless otherwise authorized by the Commission;

(3) The spectrum leasing arrangement is not an assignment, sale, or transfer of the license itself;

(4) The spectrum leasing arrangement shall not be assigned to any entity that is ineligible or unqualified to enter into a spectrum leasing arrangement under the applicable rules as set forth in this subpart;

(5) The licensee shall not consent to an assignment of a spectrum leasing arrangement unless such assignment complies with applicable Commission rules and regulations.