



FCC Title 47 Part 15 Labeling Requirements

Application Engineering Bulletin

August 2003

The Code of Federal Regulations contains the FCC charter that deals with equipment that generates radio-frequency (RF) energy whether it is intentional, unintentional or incidental. Once you have dealt with the issues, to secure the necessary class of license for the product you are designing, you need to take a look at your labeling requirements.

Title 47 Part 15.19, a through d, defines the labeling requirements for electronic products. The standards for labeling states that the product must be legible and remain adhered to the surface of the product in a defined position.

Aluminum foil labels have been a mainstay of FCC regulatory labeling since the requirements began. Aluminum can be debossed with information and even though the label can become illegible through usage and cleaning, the information is still readable and the serial numbers and product identification numbers can be easily identified after years in the marketplace.

There are some additional methods of dealing with the labeling requirements. On an injection-molded part, an insert can be made that can offer the necessary regulatory information. The cost of the insert is sometimes a good alternative in reducing the cost of post-applied labels. However, if a molded product case is to be used on several products and different iterations of the product, the potential for the information being transferred product to product becomes an issue. Sometimes FCC information is molded into the product and additional labels that include the serial number and other product identification information are affixed to the product post-production.

On all products, during the design phase, compliance labeling should be considered. A single label can display FCC, UL, CE, CSA and other labeling information, which reduces both the costs and the real estate that is required to affix the labels. Additionally, warning labels can be added to the larger labels.

Compliance labeling can serve another purposes as well. By affixing a compliance label over fasteners or other assembly features and designing the label to be a tamper-proof label, you can assure warranty issues and verify that user tampering has not changed the product from the status in which it was shipped. Again, the label can be used as a method of voiding warranty or making it a violation of the safety designs by opening the unit. You can save the cost of additional tamper-proof labeling by combining regulatory labels with the tamper-proofing features.

Lustre-Cal recommends that you consult with our staff early in the design phase to look at compliance labeling, as well as overlays, membrane switches and other labeling needs. There are a myriad of approaches to combining labels, material selection, adhesive and liner selection. The Lustre-Cal technical staff is available to assist you in these areas. Our strategic partnerships with our leading suppliers of substrates and adhesives, also give us the depth to aid you in any compliance issues.