

Why register signal boosters/BDAs

The rules of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) require that signal booster devices, identified in 47 CFR §90.219, and transceiving Maryland FiRST radio frequencies, must be registered prior to installation and activation.¹ To register these devices with the FCC, the device owner must first obtain the permission of the Department of Information Technology (DoIT).² Installing and activating an unregistered Class B signal boosters is a violation of FCC rules and is subject to Enforcement Bureau action.³

DoIT cannot grant its consent to activate a signal booster, as required by the FCC,⁴ until the device has first been registered with Maryland FiRST. The registration process provides DoIT with an opportunity to review the proposed installation as well as engineering and maintenance practices adopted to preclude interference. Upon satisfactory review of the installation, DoIT will approve and register the signal booster with the FCC.

With respect to signal boosters that have been installed previously without the required consent of DoIT, please initiate the DoIT registration process as soon as practical to come into compliance with FCC rules. DoIT does not contemplate reporting previously installed signal boosters to the FCC as our objectives are to prevent interference to public safety communications and comply with the State's obligations under FCC rules.

Signal boosters may be registered with DoIT at [Statewide Radio System \(maryland.gov\)](https://www.maryland.gov). The FCC's rules on signal boosters (47 CFR §90.219) are provided in Appendix 1. Specific Maryland FiRST frequencies that require DoIT's written consent prior to activating a signal booster are identified in Appendix 2.

¹ [FCC Signal Booster Registration - Part 90 Class B Signal Booster Registration & Discovery](#)

² See 47 CFR §90.219(b)(1)

³ Unauthorized use may result in significant forfeiture penalties, including penalties in excess of \$100,000 for each continuing violation.

⁴ See 47 CFR §90.219(b)(1)(i)