

Frequently Asked Questions About The FCC's 700 MHz Order

- Q: Why is the FCC forcing wireless microphone users to move out of the 700 MHz band?
- A: The FCC has reassigned the 700 MHz band (698–806 MHz) to make more spectrum available for Public Safety radio communications and next-generation wireless services for consumers and businesses. This spectrum was previously allocated for primary use by television stations and secondary use by professional wireless audio and video equipment. The transition to digital broadcasting enabled DTV stations to fit into the spectrum below 698 MHz, making the 700 MHz band available for new uses.
- Q: Who are the new users of the 700 MHz band?
- A: The 700 MHz band has been reallocated for use by Public Safety agencies and licensed wireless service providers. Public Safety agencies include police, fire, ambulance, rescue, and other emergency responders. Licensed wireless service providers are national carriers such as AT&T and Verizon or local and regional providers of wireless voice or data services. Licenses to use sections of the band were assigned by auction.
- Q: What types of products are affected by the FCC's 700 MHz Order?
- A: The Order affects all devices that the FCC categorizes as Low Power Auxiliary Stations and that operate on frequencies between 698 and 806 MHz. This includes wireless microphones, wireless in-ear monitors, wireless production intercom systems, wireless audio and video links, and similar devices.
- Q: Are wireless systems that operate in other parts of the spectrum affected by the 700 MHz Order?
- A: The 700 MHz Order does not apply to wireless systems that operate in the core TV bands (174–216 MHz and 470–698 MHz) or other frequency ranges.
- Q: Which Shure wireless systems are still legal for me to use?
- A: All currently-available Shure wireless systems (including PG, PGX, SLX, ULX, UHF-R, and PSM product lines) operate outside of the 700 MHz band and are legal for use. Shure stopped selling products that operate in the 700 MHz band in 2007.
- Q: Can Shure re-tune my 700 MHz wireless systems to operate in another part of the spectrum?
- A: No. Hundreds of components in the transmitter and receiver would need to be replaced, and for some components those parts are no longer available. It is much faster and more cost-effective to replace the system.

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- Q: In our facility, all of the wireless systems are connected to a common set of receiving antennas through an antenna distribution system. Does that equipment need to be replaced along with our 700 MHz wireless systems?
- A: Some accessories like antennas, antenna combiners, antenna distribution units, antenna amplifiers, RF filters, etc. are designed to operate over a limited frequency range and will need to be replaced with new components that match the frequency range of your new transmitters and receivers. Consult with Shure Applications Engineering (800-516-2525 or support@shure.com) to determine which of your existing wireless accessories will be compatible with your new systems.
- Q: What happens if I continue to use wireless systems in the 700 MHz band after June 12, 2010?
- A: Your wireless equipment could interfere with Public Safety communications or new wireless services in your area. This action could result in a fine, the amount of which is subject to the FCC's discretion. It is also likely that Public Safety communications or new services would interfere with your wireless systems, causing dropouts and reduced range.
- Q: Will the FCC reimburse me for the cost of replacing my 700 MHz wireless equipment?
- A: The FCC has not announced any reimbursement program for users of 700 MHz wireless systems.
- Q: What happens to all of the 700 MHz wireless systems that are being returned to Shure in conjunction with the rebate program?
- A: Shure is proud to have an environmentally responsible recycling and disposal policy. All scrap components and materials are delivered to Sims Recycling Solutions, an EPA-approved electronics recycling company. The items are first shredded into pieces smaller than one inch, and then separated into different types of material (metals, glass, plastic, etc.). All of these materials are then recycled. No electronic equipment or components go to a landfill and all processing occurs in the U.S.
- Q: Can I resell my 700 MHz wireless systems to someone in another country, where they are still legal for use?
- A: Due to the extremely complex technical, regulatory, legal, and customs requirements governing the export of wireless equipment, Shure does not recommend selling used U.S. wireless systems to buyers in other countries.
- Q: Replacing our 700 MHz wireless systems will be expensive. What will Shure do to help our organization?
- A: In response to the FCC's 700 MHz Order, Shure has extended its 700 MHz rebate program until June 30, 2010. This program provides rebates for customers who purchase a new Shure wireless system and send in their old 700 MHz system, regardless of who manufactured it. Complete details are available at www.shure.com/rebate.
- Q: Where can I find the FCC's 700 MHz Order?
- A: The official document is titled *Revisions to Rules Authorizing the Operation of Low Power Auxiliary Stations in the 698–806 MHz Band* and can be viewed or downloaded on the FCC's website at www.fcc.gov.