

FCC RULES IT IS ILLEGAL TO USE A BDA WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE CELLULAR COMPANY.

The question of the legality of cellular companies **customers** of installing BDAs is a frequent discussion topic. This was resolved years ago but needs repeating.

The FCC rules are actually quite clear on this subject, but some unscrupulous BDA manufacturers **intentionally** misinform or mislead their customers about the FCC rules concerning BDAs (FCC calls them signal boosters).

These manufacturers know THEY are not liable for the FCC violation because the FCC holds the USER (YOU!) responsible for putting the BDA into operation. These manufacturers often confuse the buyer by saying they are 'FCC approved' but that approval (i.e. FCC equipment certification) is only to manufacture BDAs, not use them.

Others say their BDAs are 'approved by the Cellular company' inferring you don't need to contact your cellular company for permission to operate the BDA. There are very few BDAs that have a blanket approval by a cellular company. The only way to really know is to ask the cellular company you want to use the BDA on. If you want to amplify more than one cellular company you have to contact ALL of them.

Below are two emails direct from the FCC that confirms ONLY companies authorized by the FCC to operate on a given frequency may operate, or approve the operation of a signal booster (same thing as a BDA). These FCC authorized companies are the cellular and PCS service providers, etc, *not the manufacturer or the user.*

The CUSTOMERS of that cellular company cannot legally install and operate a BDA without the cellular company's permission.

Below are two different responses from the FCC confirming cellular customers cannot use BDAs without the cellular company's specific approval.

Remember, it is YOU, the BDA user, the FCC will fine and/or confiscate the equipment from. The manufacturer makes the profit, you pay the fine.

For a more extensive discussion of this subject, download the report from the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) at:

http://files.ctia.org/pdf/CTIA_Repeater_White_Paper_Final_050106.pdf

This document prepared by: Jackdaniel@RFWise.com

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Original request for clarification

Subject: Do I need a license ?
From: Jack Daniel <JackDaniel@RFSolutions.com>
To: fccinfo@fcc.gov

I want to buy two signal boosters (also called Bi-Directional Amplifiers or BDAs) and install them in office buildings.

One signal booster will be used for cellular system handsets.
One signal booster will be used for Nextel handsets.
These signal boosters will not be used for any other purpose.
Someone told me I needed a license (or permission from the cellular company and Nextel) to operate these signal boosters on cellular and Nextel channels.

Some manufacturers say I don't have to have a license.

Do I need a license (or the licensee's permission) to operate signal boosters on cellular and Nextel channels?

Since I own handsets on both these systems doesn't that also give me the right to amplify these signals as much as I want without a license of any kind?

Thanks,
Jack Daniel
JackDaniel@jackdaniel.com

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FCC RESPONSE

Subject: FCC Consumer Center response from representative TSR15
Date: Tue, 9 Dec 2003 08:09:50 -0500 (EST)
From: FCCInfo FCCInfo@fcc.gov
Organization: FCC
To: jackdaniel@rfsolutions.com

You are receiving this email in response to your inquiry to the FCC on 12/9/2003 8:09:45 AM.

Hello Mr. Daniels,

Signal Boosters Bi-Directional Amplifiers or BDA's are only permitted for use by **licensee's only**.

Please see the FCC Rules and Regulations CFR 47 Part 22.527.
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/rules.html>

<http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/get-cfr.cgi?TITLE=47&PART=22&SECTION=527&YEAR=2002&TYPE=TEXT>

Best Regards,
Donna
GCC15

(Note: The FCC does not give out names, just the service representative's ID number)

Second FCC reply to the same question asked by someone else

Date: 2-25-04
From: FCCInfo <FCCInfo@fcc.gov>
Organization: FCC

Dear Mr. XXX *(I am not authorized to post name,*
Please see Rule Section 22.383 below:
Sec. 22.383 In-building radiation systems.

Licensees may install and operate in-building radiation systems without applying for authorization or notifying the FCC, provided that the locations of the in-building radiation systems are within the protected service area of the licensee's authorized transmitter(s) on the same channel or channel block.

In other words , the licensee (the cellular provider) can install and operate these devices - **not anyone else without their permission**. If someone has installed this device without the permission or knowledge of the licensee, you may report that to the FCC field office nearest you. The list of Field Offices is at:
<http://www.fcc.gov/eb/ddadd.html>

Thank you,
TSR36

Related comment: These same manufacturers often promote the mobile use of BDAs in cars, trucks, etc. This is also a violation of FCC rules. BDAs can only be installed legally in fixed locations. RF Amplifiers that physically connect direct to the handset using a connector are NOT BDAs and may be legal in mobiles.