

As an Aid Worker living in Nepal, and as a US Citizen, I request this exemption using this Argument for classes of devices 5 and 4:

Phones and Tablets purchased should be modified, as direct support from the manufacturer is not always possible overseas. For example, In the case of the Apple iphone 2,3,and 3s, it is/was not possible to use the device as a phone unless modified. Many applications offered by Apple are not even allowed for folks outside the USA, so substitute applications needed to complete my Aid Work needed to be installed.

So, products purchased and owned by an individual should be allowed to be modified as there is no inherent copyright violation in doing so.

Modifications of electronic devices also encourages innovation: many of today's features and functions found on devices today would not be possible without this type of experimentation. Experimentation and expansion of hardware is vital to the growth of the industry, as proven since the very first IBM PC was sold.

As an ex-IBM developer that worked on the very first IBM PC XT, I can attest to the fact that the legal modification of hardware/firmware/software was the basis of growth for entire industry, so closing off that path for current devices is "bad for business" in the long term.

Please encourage the growth of business for the sake of freedom and democracy.

Signed,
Jiggy Gatton