



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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DA 01-799

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March 30, 2001

MASS MEDIA BUREAU ACTION

AMENDED EMERGENCY INFORMATION RULE EFFECTIVE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2001

On August 7, 2000, the Commission released an order,¹ which among other things, amended section 79.2 of the Commission's rules.² The amendments require TV broadcasters and multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs) that provide emergency information to make that information more accessible to persons with visual disabilities. Thus, the rules require TV broadcasters and MVPDs to make the "critical details" of emergency information accessible to persons with visual disabilities when they provide that information as part of a regularly scheduled newscast, or a newscast that interrupts regular programming.³ TV broadcasters and MVPDs must accompany emergency information with an aural tone when they provide that information in any other manner, such as through a crawl or a scroll.⁴

When it amended section 79.2 of its rules, the Commission ordered that the amended rules would "be effective upon approval by the Office of Management and Budget"⁵ (OMB). The Commission's staff has received a number of inquiries about the status of OMB's approval process. Accordingly, the Mass Media Bureau issues this Public Notice to announce that OMB approved the amended rules on February 1, 2001 (OMB No. 3060-0967). The amended rules thus have been effective since that date.

Consumer Information Bureau contact: Pam Gregory, 418-2498 (voice), or 418-1169 (TTY).

Mass Media Bureau contact: Eric Bash, 202-418-2130, or ebash@fcc.gov.

¹ Implementation of Video Description of Video Programming, MM Docket No. 99-339, *Report and Order*, 15 FCC Rcd 15230 (2000) (*Report and Order*), *on recon.*, FCC 01-7 (rel. Jan. 18, 2001).

² 47 C.F.R. § 79.2.

³ *Id.* at § 79.2(b)(1)(ii).

⁴ *Id.* at 79.2(b)(1)(iii).

⁵ *Report and Order*, 15 FCC Rcd at 15251, ¶ 52.