



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 15-807
July 10, 2015

**Notice of Effective Date of *Second Accessible Emergency Information Order*
and Announcement of Comment Deadlines for Accompanying *Second Further Notice*
MB Docket No. 12-107**

Comments Due: August 10, 2015

Replies Due: September 8, 2015

On May 28, 2015, the Commission released the *Second Accessible Emergency Information Order*,¹ which adopted additional rules under the authority of Sections 202 and 203 of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA) to make emergency information in video programming accessible to individuals who are blind or visually impaired. First, the *Second Accessible Emergency Information Order* requires multichannel video programming distributors (“MVPDs”) to pass through a secondary audio stream containing audible emergency information when they permit consumers to access linear programming on second screen devices, such as tablets, smartphones, laptops, and similar devices.² Second, the *Second Accessible Emergency Information Order* requires manufacturers of apparatus that receive or play back video programming to provide a mechanism that is simple and easy to use for activating the secondary audio stream to access audible emergency information.³ The Commission stated that the *Second Accessible Emergency Information Order* would become effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.⁴ The Federal Register published a summary of the *Second Accessible Emergency Information Order* on July 10, 2015.⁵ Accordingly, the rules adopted in the *Second Accessible Emergency Information Order* will take effect on August 10,

¹ *Accessible Emergency Information, and Apparatus Requirements for Emergency Information and Video Description: Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010*; MB Docket No. 12-107, Second Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 15-56 (rel. May 28, 2015) (“*Second Accessible Emergency Information Order and Second Further Notice*”). The *Second Accessible Emergency Information Order and Second Further Notice* is available on the Commission’s website at http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2015/db0626/FCC-15-56A1.pdf (temporary link). The document is also available electronically via the Commission’s Electronic Document Management System (EDOCS) website at http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/ (by FCC document number, FCC 15-56) or via the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) website at <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/> (by docket number).

² See 47 C.F.R. § 79.2(b)(6). The compliance deadline for this requirement is July 10, 2017.

³ See 47 C.F.R. § 79.105(d). The compliance deadline for this requirement is December 20, 2016.

⁴ *Second Accessible Emergency Information Order and Second Further Notice* at ¶ 59.

⁵ *Second Accessible Emergency Information Order*, Final Rules, 80 Fed. Reg. 39698 (Jul. 10, 2015). See <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-07-10/pdf/2015-16324.pdf>.

2015.⁶

In the *Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (“*Second Further Notice*”) adopted with the order, the Commission seeks comment on additional issues related to making emergency information audibly accessible to individuals who are blind or visually impaired, including: how to prioritize aural emergency information on the secondary audio stream; whether to continue to require school closing information to be included aurally on the secondary audio stream; and whether to require MVPDs to ensure that the devices and applications they provide to subscribers include a simple and easy to use activation mechanism for accessing audible emergency information on the secondary audio stream.⁷ The Commission set deadlines for filing comments and reply comments at 30 and 60 days, respectively, after publication of the *Second Further Notice* in the Federal Register.⁸ The Federal Register published a summary of the *Second Further Notice* on July 10, 2015.⁹ Accordingly, comments must be submitted no later than August 10, 2015, and reply comments must be submitted no later than September 8, 2015. Commenters must follow the filing instructions provided in the *Second Further Notice*.¹⁰ The *Second Further Notice* is available on the Commission’s website.¹¹

For additional information, contact Evan Baranoff, Evan.Baranoff@fcc.gov, of the Media Bureau, Policy Division, at (202) 418-2120. Press inquiries should be directed to Janice Wise at (202) 418-8165. TTY: (202) 418-7172 or (888) 835-5322.

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⁶ The new rules contain compliance deadlines for their requirements; *see supra* notes 2 and 3.

⁷ *See Second Accessible Emergency Information Order and Second Further Notice* at ¶¶ 37-48.

⁸ *See Second Accessible Emergency Information Order and Second Further Notice* at ¶ 55.

⁹ *Second Further Notice*, Proposed Rules, 80 Fed. Reg. 39722 (Jul. 10, 2015). *See* <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-07-10/pdf/2015-16323.pdf>.

¹⁰ *See Second Further Notice* at ¶¶ 55-57.

¹¹ *See supra* note 1. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (tty).