



PUBLIC NOTICE

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March 6, 2018

NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE DATE OF HEARING AID COMPATIBILITY RULES

CG Docket No. 13-46, WT Docket Nos. 07-250 and 10-254

On October 24, 2017, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) amended the hearing aid compatibility (HAC) rules governing wireline and wireless handsets.¹ Among other things, the Commission approved a new wireline HAC volume control standard, adopted a requirement for volume control in wireless handsets, and eliminated an obsolete wireless handset standard.² The effective date for these rules is March 30, 2018,³ which is thirty days after the date of publication of the *HAC Order* in the *Federal Register*.⁴

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, or audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (844) 432-2275 (videophone), or (202) 418-0432 (TTY).

For further information about this proceeding, please contact (1) for wireless issues: Jonathan Lechter at (202) 418-7387 or Jonathan.Lechter@fcc.gov; and (2) for wireline issues: Susan Bahr at (202) 418-0573 or Susan.Bahr@fcc.gov.

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¹ *Access to Telecommunication Equipment and Services by Persons with Disabilities; Amendment of the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Mobile Handsets; Comment Sought on 2010 Review of Hearing Aid Compatibility Regulations*, Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration, 32 FCC Rcd 9063 (2017) (*HAC Order*), https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-17-135A1_Rcd.pdf.

² *HAC Order*, 32 FCC Rcd at 9064; 47 CFR §§ 20.19(b)(1)-(2), (e)(1)(iii)(B)-(D), (f)(1)(i)-(ii), (k)(2), (l), 68.1, 68.2(a), 68.3 (selected definitions), 68.224(b), 68.317(a)(1)-(2), (h)-(i), 68.320(e).

³ In addition, certain rules are subject to a transition period, and affected entities are not required to comply with those rules until the end of the transition period. See 47 CFR §§ 20.19(b)(1)-(2), (e)(1)(iii)(B)-(D), (f)(1)(ii), 68.317(a)(1)-(2), (h).

⁴ Federal Communications Commission, *Hearing Aid Compatibility Standards*, 83 Fed. Reg. 8624 (Feb. 28, 2018). However, the new sections 47 CFR §§ 68.501-504, applicable to wireline handsets used for advanced communications services, which contain information collection requirements, require approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-13, 109 Stat. 163 (1995) (codified at 44 U.S.C. §§ 3501-3520), and shall become effective after the Commission publishes a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing OMB approval and an effective date.