



PUBLIC NOTICE

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DA 18-532
May 21, 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 The FCC approved new rules for wireline advanced communications services telephonic customer premises equipment, including wireline Voice over Internet Protocol telephones, by adding sections 68.501-68.504 to the Commission's rules.² These new rules resulted in modified information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.³ The effective date for these rules is based on publication in the Federal Register of a notice announcing approval by the Office of Management and Budget of the modified information collection requirements. Such notice was published in the Federal Register on May 21, 2018, and specified that the rules were effective immediately.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: Susan Bahr, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Disability Rights Office, 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 on Reconsideration, 32 FCC Rcd 9063 (2017) (*HAC Order*), https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-17-135A1_Rcd.pdf.

² *Id.* at 9064, para. 1; 47 CFR §§ 68.501-68.504.

³ Pub. L. No. 104-13, 109 Stat. 163 (1995) (codified at 44 U.S.C. §§ 3501-3520).

⁴ Federal Communications Commission, *Hearing Aid Compatibility Standards*, 83 Fed. Reg. 23378 (May 21, 2018). Several of the 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 §§ 68.501, 68.502, 68.504; see also 47 CFR § 68.2(a). In the *HAC Order*, the Commission also approved a new wireline HAC volume control standard, adopted a requirement for volume control in wireless handsets, and eliminated an obsolete wireless handset standard. *HAC Order*, 32 FCC Rcd at 9064, para. 1. The effective date for those rules was announced by Public Notice on March 6, 2018. *Notice of Effective Date of Hearing Aid Compatibility Rules*, Public Notice, DA 18-216 (CGB Mar. 6, 2018).