**DA 22-1244**

**Released: December 1, 2022**

**Media Bureau Reminds Television Broadcasters of Phase in of**

**Audio Description Rules to DMAs 81 Through 90 as of January 1, 2023**

**MB Docket No. 11-43**

On October 27, 2020, the Commission adopted the *2020 Audio Description Order*, which expanded the Commission’s audio description rules.[[1]](#footnote-3) Audio description makes video programming more accessible to individuals who are blind or visually impaired through “[t]he insertion of audio narrated descriptions of a television program’s key visual elements into natural pauses between the program’s dialogue.”[[2]](#footnote-4) The Commission’s audio description rules require certain television broadcast stations and multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs) to provide audio description for a portion of the video programming they televise to consumers.[[3]](#footnote-5) The *2020 Audio Description Order* expanded the availability of audio description by phasing the requirements in for an additional 10 designated market areas (DMAs) each year for four years.[[4]](#footnote-6) As a result, the Commission’s audio description rules extended to DMAs 61 through 70 as of January 1, 2021, and to DMAs 71 through 80 on January 1, 2022.[[5]](#footnote-7) We remind television broadcasters that the audio description rules next will extend to DMAs 81 through 90 on January 1, 2023.[[6]](#footnote-8)

As set forth in the *2020 Audio Description Order*, the expansion of the audio description rules applies to the relevant DMAs as determined by The Nielsen Company as of January 1, 2020.[[7]](#footnote-9) Accordingly, the audio description rules will extend to the following DMAs on January 1, 2023:

1. Madison
2. Waco-Temple-Bryan
3. Harlingen-Weslaco-Brownsville-McAllen
4. Paducah-Cape Girardeau-Harrisburg
5. Colorado Springs-Pueblo
6. Shreveport
7. Syracuse
8. Champaign and Springfield-Decatur
9. Savannah
10. Cedar Rapids-Waterloo-Iowa City and Dubuque

Accessible Materials. 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](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice).

For general information about audio description, visit [www.fcc.gov/audio-description](http://www.fcc.gov/audio-description). For further information regarding this proceeding, contact Diana Sokolow, Policy Division, Media Bureau, 202-418-2120.

-FCC-

1. *Video Description: Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010*, Report and Order, MB Docket No. 11-43, 35 FCC Rcd 12577 (2020) (*2020 Audio Description Order*). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
2. *See* 47 CFR § 79.3(a)(3). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
3. *See id.* § 79.3(b). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
4. *See 2020 Audio Description Order*, 35 FCC Rcd at 12577, para. 1. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
5. 47 CFR § 79.3(b)(1). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
6. *Id.* The requirements will extend to DMAs 91 through 100 on January 1, 2024. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
7. *2020 Audio Description Order*, 35 FCC Rcd at 12583, para. 11. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)