



PUBLIC NOTICE

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THE WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU REMINDS WIRELESS HANDSET MANUFACTURERS OF UPCOMING HEARING AID COMPATIBILITY COMPLIANCE DATES

WT Docket No. 23-388

The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (Bureau) reminds wireless handset manufacturers of upcoming hearing aid compatibility filing deadlines and the end of the 100% hearing aid compatibility transition period.¹ Handset manufacturers will file their last FCC Form 655 this coming July.² This compliance filing will cover the reporting period from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 and will show compliance with the Commission's existing 85% hearing aid compatibility benchmark along with all other applicable hearing aid compatibility requirements.³ The filing window for this last FCC Form 655 submission will open on July 1, 2026 and close on July 31, 2026 and will be accessible at <https://www.fcc.gov/filing-hearing-aid-compatibility-reports-and-certifications>.

The Bureau also reminds handset manufacturers that the 100% hearing aid compatibility benchmark and related provisions will take effect starting on December 15, 2026.⁴ Starting on this date, handset manufacturers may no longer offer non-hearing aid compatible handset models. Further, 85% of the handset models that handset manufacturers offer must meet acoustic and telecoil coupling requirements.⁵ The other 15% of handset models that handset manufacturers offer must meet acoustic and Bluetooth coupling requirements; these handset models may also meet telecoil requirements in addition to the acoustic and Bluetooth coupling requirements.⁶ In addition, as is currently required, all new handset models must meet either the 2019 ANSI Standard's volume control requirement or the temporary volume control waiver standard which is set to expire on September 29, 2027.⁷

¹ See *Achieving 100% Wireless Handset Model Hearing Aid Compatibility*, WT Docket No. 23-388, Report and Order, 39 FCC Rcd 11917 (2024); 47 CFR § 20.19.

² 47 CFR § 20.19(i)(1), (4).

³ 47 CFR § 20.19(i).

⁴ 47 CFR § 20.19(c)(2).

⁵ Acoustic coupling requirements refer to RF interference requirements under the applicable ANSI standard. 47 CFR § 20.19(a) (definition of acoustic coupling); *id* at § 20.19(b)(1)-(2) (referencing the 2019 ANSI standard's requirements for certifying handset models as hearing aid compatible).

⁶ 47 CFR § 20.19(c)(2)(iii).

⁷ 47 CFR § 20.19(c)(2)(v); see also *Amendment of the Commission's Rules Governing Standards for Hearing Aid-Compatible Handsets*, WT Docket No. 20-3, Order, 38 FCC Rcd 8636 (WTB Sept. 29, 2023) (adopting a temporary volume control standard); *Achieving 100% Wireless Handset Model Hearing Aid Compatibility*, WT Docket No. 23-388, Order, DA 25-759 (WTB Aug. 26, 2025) (extending use of the temporary volume control standard).

In addition, the Bureau reminds handset manufacturers that starting next January they will file their first revised FCC Form 855 demonstrating compliance with the 100% hearing aid compatibility benchmark and related requirements.⁸ This filing will cover the reporting period of December 15 to December 31, 2026.⁹ Thereafter, the filing will cover the previous calendar year of January 1 through December 31. The filing window for the upcoming FCC Form 855 submission will open on January 4, 2027 and close on February 1, 2027. The form will be accessible at <https://www.fcc.gov/filing-hearing-aid-compatibility-reports-and-certifications> and will be identified as revised FCC Form 855 for handset manufacturers.¹⁰ Starting January 2027 and every January thereafter handset manufacturers and service providers will both be submitting FCC Form 855 compliance filings during the January filing window.¹¹ It is important, therefore, that handset manufacturers and service providers file the version of the form applicable to them.

The hearing aid compatibility requirements apply to all handset manufacturers that offer handset models for sale or use in the United States that are used to deliver digital mobile services.¹² These rules apply regardless of whether the manufacturer is located outside of the United States or whether a handset manufacturer's handset models are offered by third parties for use in the United States or are sold under different brand names for use in the United States.¹³ If the handset manufacturer is a non-U.S. company, the company's U.S. business office address and phone number must be included with its certification filings. If the filing company does not have a U.S. business office address, then the filer must use its U.S. agent's address.

Commission staff will review hearing aid compatibility certifications to ensure that they are timely and accurately filed and demonstrate full compliance with the Commission's rules.

For further information concerning this notice, contact Eli Johnson, FCC, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Competition & Infrastructure Policy Division, (202) 418-1395, eli.johnson@fcc.gov.

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⁸ 47 CFR § 20.19(i)(4).

⁹ Between July 1, 2026 and December 14, 2026, handset manufacturers must be in compliance with the 85% hearing aid compatibility benchmark and related hearing aid compatibility requirements. Handset manufacturers who are not already in compliance with the 100% hearing aid compatibility benchmark must ensure they will be in compliance with this benchmark by December 15, 2026 and, therefore, we will not require handset manufacturers to file a closeout FCC Form 655 for the period between July 1, 2026 and December 14, 2026.

¹⁰ Service providers will continue to file the current version of FCC Form 855 until the 100% hearing aid compatibility transition period applicable to them ends. 47 CFR § 20.19(i). After the transition period applicable to them ends, they will file revised FCC Form 855. For nationwide service providers, the 100% hearing aid capability transition period ends on June 14, 2027, and for non-nationwide service providers, the transition period ends on June 13, 2028. 47 CFR § 20.19(c)(4), (6).

¹¹ 47 CFR § 20.19(i)(4).

¹² 47 CFR § 20.19(c).

¹³ 47 CFR § 20.19(a) (definition of a handset manufacturer); *id* at 20.19(c).