



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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## **FCC TAKES ACTION TO EXTEND DEADLINE FOR BROADCASTERS AND OTHER EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PARTICIPANTS TO COMPLY WITH TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NEXT-GENERATION EMERGENCY ALERTS**

Washington D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission recently took action to extend the deadline for broadcasters, cable companies, satellite radio and television operators, and wireline video service providers to implement the new federal common messaging protocol adopted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the transmission of next generation emergency alerts and warnings to the public.

In 2007, the FCC required all Emergency Alert System (EAS) participants to have the capability to receive Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)-formatted EAS messages within 180 days of FEMA’s adoption of a CAP standard (*i.e.*, March 29, 2011). Under today’s action, the new deadline for all EAS participants to implement the new technology was extended to September 30, 2011.

James Arden Barnett, Jr., Rear Admiral (ret.) and Chief of the FCC’s Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, said, “We are pleased to provide the extension to broadcasters and other EAS participants to come into CAP-compliance. It is critical that we get this right from the beginning and after weighing considerable public input calling for an extension, we believe today’s action to do so provides broadcasters and other EAS participants with greater flexibility to meet the technical requirements for delivering next generation emergency alerts to the public.”

The FCC’s decision to provide an extension was based on public comment and a specific recommendation by the FCC’s Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council (CSRIC), a federal advisory committee, calling for an extension of the CAP-compliance deadline. CSRIC and others from the public cited multiple factors in their call for an extension of the deadline, including the need for more time for the development, testing and potential certification of the new equipment and the costs associated with purchasing the CAP-compliant equipments by EAS participants. The FCC took these factors into consideration and extended the deadline from 180 days to 360 days for EAS participants to come into compliance.

Action by the Commission, November 18, 2010, by Order (FCC 10-191). Chairman Genachowski, and Commissioners Copps, McDowell, Clyburn and Baker. Separate Statement issued by Commissioner McDowell.

For additional information about the CAP deadline extension, please contact Gregory Cooke, Associate Chief, Policy and Licensing Division, FCC’s Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, at 202-418-2351 or via email: [Gregory.Cooke@fcc.gov](mailto:Gregory.Cooke@fcc.gov).

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