



# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Federal Communications Commission**  
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**DA 18-358**

**Released: April 11, 2018**

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU INFORMS STATE EMERGENCY  
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEES HOW TO PREPARE AND FILE SUMMARIES OF  
MULTILINGUAL EAS ACTIVITY RECEIVED FROM EAS PARTICIPANTS**

**EB Docket No. 04-296**

The Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (Bureau) of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) issues this Public Notice, as required by section 11.21(e) of the Commission's rules, to inform State Emergency Communications Committees (SECCs) how to prepare and submit summaries of the reports filed by Emergency Alert System (EAS) Participants of their current or planned actions to provide EAS alert content in languages other than English to their non-English speaking audiences, as required by section 11.21(d) of the Commission's rules.<sup>1</sup>

On March 23, 2016, the Commission adopted an *Order* in the above-referenced docket, which, among other things, revised the Commission's EAS regulations to establish certain reporting requirements applicable both to EAS Participants and to SECCs.<sup>2</sup> These requirements were adopted to ensure that the Commission has sufficient and accurate information on any existing and planned activities by EAS Participants to provide EAS alert content in languages other than English to their non-English speaking audiences.

First, EAS Participants were required to provide the following information to their respective SECCs within one year of the effective date of the new regulations,<sup>3</sup> i.e., on or by November 6, 2017:<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 47 CFR § 11.21(d), (e). The Commission's rules define EAS Participants as radio and television broadcast stations, cable systems; wireline video systems; direct broadcast satellite service providers; and digital audio radio service providers. *See* 47 CFR § 11.11(a).

<sup>2</sup> *Review of the Emergency Alert System; Independent Spanish Broadcasters Association, the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, Inc., and the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council, Petition for Immediate Relief; Randy Gehman Petition for Rulemaking*, Order, 31 FCC Rcd 2414, 2425-26, paras. 21-23 (2016) (*Order*), *aff'd sub nom. MMTC v. FCC*, 873 F.3d 932 (D.C. Cir. 2017).

<sup>3</sup> *See* 47 CFR § 11.21(d).

<sup>4</sup> *See Review of the Emergency Alert System; Independent Spanish Broadcasters Association, the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, Inc., and the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council*,

- A description of any actions taken by the EAS Participants (acting individually, in conjunction with other EAS Participants in the geographic area, and/or in consultation with state and local emergency authorities), to make EAS alert content available in languages other than English to its non-English speaking audiences.<sup>5</sup>
- A description of any future actions planned by the EAS Participants, in consultation with state and local emergency authorities, to provide EAS alert content in languages other than English to its non-English speaking audiences, along with an explanation for the EAS Participant’s decision to plan or not plan such actions.<sup>6</sup>

Second, the rules direct SECCs to provide, on or by May 4, 2018, summaries of information received from EAS Participants as an amendment to their State EAS Plans, as determined by the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau.<sup>7</sup>

With this *Public Notice*, the Bureau provides guidance regarding how SECCs may amend their State EAS Plans with the summaries.

**A. Contents of the SECC Multilingual EAS Activity Summaries:**

- The total number or percentage of EAS Participants within the state that filed with their SECC the required descriptions of actions, both current or planned, to make EAS alert content available in languages other than English to their non-English speaking audiences.
- For each non-English language included in these EAS Participant descriptions, the SECC must include in its summary the total number or percentage of EAS Participants that indicate that they are currently making EAS alert content available in each language to their audiences.
- For each non-English language included in these EAS Participant descriptions, the SECC must include in its summary the total number or percentage of EAS Participants that indicate that they are planning to make EAS alert content available in each language to their audiences.
- For each non-English language included in these EAS Participant descriptions, the SECC must include in its summary the total number or percentage of EAS Participants that indicate that they are not currently making, nor planning to make, EAS alert content available in each language to their audiences.
- Any other information the SECC deems relevant.

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*Petition for Immediate Relief; Randy Gehman Petition for Rulemaking, Small Entity Compliance Guide, 32 FCC Rcd 6559 (2017) (Small Entity Compliance Guide), [https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-17-770A1.pdf](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-17-770A1.pdf).*

<sup>5</sup> See 47 CFR § 11.21(d)(1).

<sup>6</sup> See 47 CFR § 11.21(d)(2). The rules also provided that EAS Participants could, at their discretion, include in their summaries of multilingual EAS activity “[a]ny other relevant information that the EAS Participant may wish to provide, including state-specific demographics on languages other than English spoken within the state, and identification of resources used or necessary to originate current or proposed multilingual EAS alert content.” 47 CFR § 11.21(d)(3).

<sup>7</sup> See 47 CFR § 11.21(e); see also 81 Fed. Reg. 76515-01 (Federal Register Publication triggering May 4, 2018 deadline).

**B. How to File the SECC Multilingual EAS Alert Activity Summaries**

SECCs should submit their multilingual EAS alert activity summaries to the Bureau in the form of a letter amending the State EAS Plan the SECC has on file with the Commission. Such letter amendments should be addressed to:

Gregory M. Cooke  
Deputy Chief, Policy and Licensing Division  
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

These letters can be sent via U.S. mail (postmarked on or by May 4, 2018) to the above-referenced address or by email at [Gregory.Cooke@fcc.gov](mailto:Gregory.Cooke@fcc.gov).

For further information, contact David Munson, Policy and Licensing Division, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau at (202) 418-2921 (voice), or via e-mail at [david.munson@fcc.gov](mailto:david.munson@fcc.gov).

Action by Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau.

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