

Date sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2012
Subject: Accessible Emergency Information and Apparatus Requirements for Emergency Information and Video Description - Reply Comment Deadline Extended

Comment Deadline: December 18, 2012
Reply Comment Deadline: extended to January 7, 2013

The FCC extended the deadline to file reply comments – to January 7, 2013 – in the rulemaking proceeding related to accessible emergency information and video description. This rulemaking is required by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA). The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) was released on November 19, 2012 (see links to the NPRM below).

The deadline to file comments – December 18, 2012 – is not changed.

Only the deadline to file reply comments (originally December 28, 2012) was extended – to January 7, 2013.

The FCC asks for public comment on its proposal to make televised emergency information that is conveyed visually (such as through an on-screen text crawl) more accessible to individuals who are blind or visually impaired by requiring the use of a secondary audio stream to provide that emergency information aurally. Comment is also sought on the FCC's proposal to limit the scope of the new rules to television broadcast services and multichannel video programming distributor (MVPD) services, and not to Internet-delivered video programming.

The FCC also asks for public comment on how to ensure that television apparatus are able to make video description available and emergency information accessible to individuals who are blind or visually impaired. In addition, the FCC seeks comment on its proposal to limit the scope of the new rules to apparatus designed to receive, play back, or record television broadcast or MVPD services.

Comment filing instructions are provided in the NPRM. Links to the

NPRM: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-12-142A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-12-142A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-12-142A1.txt

Links to the Public Notice extending the reply comment deadline to January 7, 2013:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-12-1985A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-12-1985A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-12-1985A1.txt