

Date: Wednesday, November 25, 2015
Subject: FCC ENSURES HEARING AID COMPATIBILITY FOR ALL WIRELESS VOICE TECHNOLOGIES

On November 20, 2015, the FCC released a Report and Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking expanding the FCC's rules requiring wireless phones to be hearing aid compatible. The item has two parts:

- The *Report and Order* expands the scope of the hearing aid compatibility rules to cover phones used with the wireless technologies of tomorrow, including IP-based communications services such as Wi-Fi Calling and Voice-over-LTE.
- The *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* seeks comment on a consensus plan by industry and consumer stakeholders that would require a greater number of wireless handsets to be hearing aid compatible over time, with an ultimate goal of 100 percent compatibility in 8 years. This would replace the current hearing aid compatibility rules, which require service providers and handset manufacturers to ensure that a specified fraction of their offerings are hearing aid compliant.

We will announce the due dates for comments and reply comments after these are published in the Federal Register. For a copy of the Notice and Statements of the Chairman and Commissioners, please follow these links:

Notice:

https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-336415A1.docx
https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-336415A1.pdf

Chairman Wheeler statement:

Word: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-336415A2.docx
PDF: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-336415A2.pdf

Commissioners' statements:

https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-336415A3.docx
https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-336415A4.docx
https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-336415A5.docx
https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-336415A6.docx

https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-336415A3.pdf
https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-336415A4.pdf
https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-336415A5.pdf
https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-336415A6.pdf

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