

Federal Communications Commission
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Enforcement Division, Room 8308
2025 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

2/12/2016

Amendment of the Commission's Rules Governing)
Hearing Aid-Compatible Mobile Handsets) WT Docket No. 07-250

Dear Federal Communications Commission,

We, the undersigned are in favor of a universal Hearing Aid Compatibility standard that allows consumers to more freely choose a hearing aid device. Until a new digital wireless standard is universally adopted by all cell phone and hearing aid manufacturers, the FCC should continue to require support for the current universal technology - the telecoil - in HAC phones.

In response to a comment that Apple filed to the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking we started an on-line petition to make consumers aware of Apple's desire to be able to call phones that only compatible with proprietary MFi (Made For iPhone) hearing aids, Hearing Aid Compatible. Within 24 hours nearly 300 signatures from consumers from around the world, agreeing with this petition, were obtained. For the petition see https://www.change.org/p/federal-communications-commission-fcc-stop-the-fcc-from-removing-the-telecoil-compatibility-requirement-from-hac-phones?recruiter=55978325&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=autopublish&utm_term=des-lg-no_src-reason_msg&fb_ref=Default

An example of one of the many comments in opposition to Apple's proposal:

"I'm signing this petition because I strongly disagree with Apple's proposal. Having multiple technologies for HAC in cellphones would be a nightmare for hearing aid users. The current universal standard for telecoil compatibility works very well and enables the hard of hearing to use their hearing aid with any cellphone currently on the market. Our choice of hearing aid should not be tied to and restricted by our cellphones. This proposal would add significantly to the expense and stress of choosing the right hearing aid."

Respectfully submitted,
Juliette Sterkens, AuD & Abram Bailey, AuD

Juliette Sterkens, AuD

Dr. Juliette Sterkens, Hearing Loop Advocate with the Hearing Loss Association of America. Sterkens, a retired audiologist, is known among consumers and hearing care providers as one of the most vocal advocates for hearing loop technology in the USA. Sterkens holds an AuD from AT Still University in Mesa AZ.

Abram bailey, AuD

Dr. Abram Bailey, CEO Hearing Tracker. Bailey is a leading expert on consumer technology in the audiology industry. He is a staunch advocate for patient-centered hearing care and audiological best practices, and welcomes any technological innovation that improves access to quality hearing outcomes. Bailey holds an AuD from Vanderbilt University Medical Center.