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Public Comments on Hearing Aid Compatibility Standards,;=====

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Comment: I am for this revision of the HAC Standards. Hearing Aid compatibility is close to ignored when dealing with telecommunication companies. The proposed revisions will not only make the lives of the hearing impaired easier, it will also make it safer. The hearing impaired need access to telephones as much as any other persons, especially considering the average hearing aid users are in the upper age range and prone to in home accidents. The HAC standards should be subject to testing and certain limits set for what is achieved by the company. I believe two years is sufficient time to come into compliance with the guidelines, and if the company in question has not they should be fined or imposed in some way to get said company into compliance. Requiring "interested consumer stakeholders" is an excellent idea to keep the ideas fresh from those who experience, or understand, the difficulties. This being said, the HAC standards should not significantly raise the price of hearing aids for the general public to where they are all but inaccessible; the hearing impaired require hearing aids to live a normal life and they should be free to do so without heavy burden.

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