

Cingular Wireless Semi-Annual HAC Progress Supplemental Report
17 May 2005

WT Docket No. 01-309
RM-8658

Cingular Wireless LLC (“Cingular”), pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) *Report and Order* in WT Docket No. 01-309 (“*Order*” or “*R&O*”),¹ hereby submits this supplemental report to the semi-annual report being filed by the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (“ATIS”). This report is the last report prior to the Commission’s ordered date for providing Hearing Aid Compatible (“HAC”) wireless handsets compliant with the ATIS C63.19 standard for RF interference. Attachment A is the Status Report on Hearing Aid Compatibility submitted to ATIS for inclusion in their report.

I. Introduction

Cingular provides voice and data services across the United States utilizing a combination of analog (“AMPS”), IS-136A (“TDMA”) and Global System for Mobile (“GSM”) air interfaces at 850 MHz and TDMA, GSM and Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (“UMTS”) air interfaces at 1900 MHz. Cingular has been designated by the Commission as a Tier I carrier.

II. Currently Available Compliant Phones

Manufacturers to date have not offered handsets compatible with Cingular’s networks that have been certified as HAC compliant under the equipment authorization process. The Commission’s Office of Engineering and Technology (“OET”) has issued Public Notice DA 05-1134 on April 25, 2005, *OET Clarifies Use of Revised Wireless Phone Hearing Aid Compatibility Standard Measurement Procedures and Rating Nomenclature*, and Telecommunications Certification Bodies (“TCBs”) are to be trained to certify handsets beginning in mid-May. In light of these developments, Cingular understands that certification of HAC handsets should be forthcoming in late May or early June.

In February 2005, Cingular requested information from its vendors regarding handsets that will be submitted for certification to the TCBs. Based on information provided by the vendors in April of this year, the provision of handsets that can meet the U3 (M3) rating at the 850 MHz band for the GSM air interface is in jeopardy. Cingular expects vendors will offer handsets that meet the U3 (M3) or better rating at the 1900 MHz band only. Cingular continues to work diligently with manufacturers and other parties on potential solutions to meet the ANSI standard for the 850 MHz band for GSM.

¹ Section 68.4(a) of the Commission’s Rules Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Telephones, FCC 03-168, Report and Order, 18 FCC Rcd 16,753 (2003).

Due to the mix of licensed bands comprising Cingular's network, a dual band handset is required for proper operation and coverage on its GSM network. The nature of Cingular's UMTS deployment also requires that handsets be capable of operating in both UMTS and GSM mode within a handset. Thus, a 1900 MHz-only handset is of little to no value to Cingular and its customers.

III. Outreach Efforts

Cingular has provided an active leadership role on the ATIS Working Group 6, which has resulted in the production of brochures developed for the wireless industry and hearing health professionals. A draft brochure for consumers is under development for consumers and is expected prior to the Self Help for Hard of Hearing national convention this summer. In addition to supporting the Wireless Center of Excellence and sponsoring the SHHH convention, Cingular will be co-presenting at the Telecommunication for the Deaf Conference. Finally Cingular will work with consumers to modify the recommended language for inserts and manuals regarding issues with HAC compliance at the 850 MHz band.

ATTACHMENT A: Cingular Wireless Status Report for May 17, 2005 as submitted to ATIS for inclusion in ATIS HAC Report.

Status Report on Hearing Aid Compatibility		
Company Name: Cingular Wireless, ATTN: Mike Roden, Exec Dir Regulatory Strategy		
Address: 5565 Glenridge Connector		
City: Atlanta	State: Georgia	Zip Code: 30342
Phone: (404)236-5894	Fax: (404) 236-5871	Email: mike.roden@cingular.com
Compliant Phone Models: See manufacturer's report		
Phone Model	ANSI C63.19 Rating	
Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
Product Labeling Information:		
Cingular Wireless plans to follow the labeling recommendations of ATIS Working Group 6. and will request that our vendors use the same symbols, space permitting, or notation, preferred by consumers		
Outreach Efforts:		
Cingular Wireless has had an active leadership position on the ATIS Working Group 6 which has resulted in the production of brochures developed for the wireless industry and hearing health professionals. A draft brochure for consumers is under development and is expected prior to the Self Help for Hard of Hearing national convention this summer. In addition to supporting the Wireless Center of Excellence and sponsoring the SHHH convention, Cingular Wireless will be co-presenting at the Telecommunication for the Deaf Conference. Finally Cingular Wireless will work with consumers to modify the recommended language for inserts and manuals regarding issues with HAC compliance at the 850 MHz band.		
Retail Availability of Compliant Phones:		
Commission's rules require that manufacturers certify compliance with the test requirements under the equipment approval procedures in part 2 of its rules. Manufacturers are in the process of submitting handsets for such certification. Manufacturers have not offered Cingular Wireless any phones that have been certified as HAC compliant as of the date of this report.		
Efforts to Incorporate Hearing Aid Compatibility into Newer Models:		
Cingular Wireless has been informing our primary handset suppliers of the requirement to provide dual band devices (850 and 1900) since May 31, 2001. This has been followed up by inclusion in Cingular's "Wireless GSM Terminal Requirements" dating back to March of 2003. Cingular formally informed our primary device vendors of the need to support the HAC mandate in July 2004 through our "Cingular Wireless Regulatory Requirements". This message was reinforced in each quarterly meeting with these vendors beginning June 2004. Numerous meetings have taken place to both emphasize the need to meet the mandate as well as seek the status of the vendor's activity. On February 17 th , Cingular Wireless' Sr. VP of Supply Chain sent a letter to our 5 largest device vendors both requesting current status and emphasizing the need to support Cingular in meeting the mandate. We received replies on or about April 15 th and all of the vendors indicated issues with meeting a M3 or better rating for phones for the 850 MHz band at the time of the response, nor could they provide Cingular Wireless with a time table to do so.		
Activities Related to ANSI C63.19 or Other Standards Work :		

Cingular Wireless was an invited voting participant member company of ANSI ASC C63 (American National Standards Institute Accredited Standards Committee on Electromagnetic Compatibility C63) and has been involved in the development of the latest version of the C63.19 – 2005 standard.

Cingular Wireless has voted on all revisions to the C63.19 standard that ANSI ASC C63 has released within the last two years and is a participating member of C63 SC8 (Subcommittee 8 – Medical Devices and EMC).

Cingular Wireless is also a member of AISP.4-HAC (Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions [ATIS] Incubator Solutions Program 4 Hearing Aid Compatibility) and participates in many of the working groups. Cingular Wireless has also contributed to the AISP.4-HAC Working Group 4 Test Plan: Hearing Aid Compatibility Technical Specification (HACTS). Cingular Wireless also has a leadership position in AISP.4 HAC Working Group 6. This group is responsible for Labeling and Outreach programs.

Total Number of Compliant Phones Offered:	0
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Total Number of Non-Compliant Phones Offered:	Unknown- data not supplied by vendors
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Ongoing Efforts for Interoperability Testing with Hearing Aids:

Nothing to report at this time.

Information regarding differences in handset offerings among regions in service areas (For Service Providers only):

Cingular plans to offer all HAC compliant models nationally, however, at this time, vendors have not offered Cingular Wireless any phones that have been certified as HAC compliant as of the date of this report.