

Hearing Aid Compatibility/Accessibility

Significant Wireless Industry Activities

2003

- CTIA approaches the Veterans Administration (VA) as a way to engage the hearing aid manufacturers to build a hearing aid with more “immunity”. CTIA conducted several meetings with the VA Secretary Principi and Dr. Beck, the senior VA official appointed by Secretary Principi.
- Dr. Beck indicated that it was premature for the VA to impose a hearing aid immunity standard at this time, particularly during the nascent stages of validating the ANSI C63.19 standard. While Dr. Beck was reticent to impose a mandatory HAC immunity standard, she was willing to consider awarding points in the VA's solicitation process to hearing aid manufacturers who provided hearing aid devices that could meet a certain hearing aid immunity level.
- A letter was sent by Congressman Buyer to Secretary Principi stating that the VA is in a position to address the HAC issue and should be involved as a way to benefit veterans and non-veterans alike.
- July 2003 CTIA Re-Launches Accesswireless.org
- CTIA developed a web-based tool for consumers with disabilities. AccessWireless.org assists those with disabilities with useful features and functions regarding wireless products or services of interest to consumers with disabilities.
- Website is committed to an accessible design using the HiSoftware Company program "Cynthia Says".
- The website provides a frequently asked questions section for hearing aid wearers and provides a list of suitable wireless phones and accessories that may work with their hearing aid. The website includes a message board for consumers to share timely information about the combinations of hearing aids and wireless phones.
- July 31st, 2003-ATIS Incubator Steering Committee Meeting
- August 2003: The FCC releases the HAC Report & Order. The wireless phone exemption to the Hearing Aid Compatibility Act and requirements relative to usability of hearing aids with wireless phones are modified.
- The wireless industry combines forces with the ATIS “Incubator” work effort. The standard was advanced to a new version (2.5) and continues to be shaped to a measurement standard that the wireless and hearing aid industries can use.
- The FCC releases a public notice seeking comments on the HAC Petition for Reconsideration.
- September 5th, 2003-ATIS HAC Incubator Meeting
- October 23rd, 2003-HAC Incubator Meeting
- October 28th, 2003-HAC Incubator Meeting
- December 1st, 2003-HAC Incubator Meeting

2004

- January 21, 2004- HAC Incubator Meeting
- March 9, 2004- HAC Incubator Meeting
- May 4th, 2004-HAC Incubator Meeting
- July 1st, 2004-HAC Incubator Meeting
- August 24th, 2004-HAC Incubator Meeting
- October 6th, 2004-HAC Incubator Meeting
- Fall, Steve Largent hosts Meeting with Consumer Groups
- November 9th, 2004-HAC Incubator Meeting
- November 10th, CTIA conducts a consumer outreach meeting with groups representing persons with hearing disabilities
 - SHHH, Gallaudet University, National Association for the Deaf, Telecommunications for the Deaf
- Late 2004, CTIA hosts meeting among members and Consumer Groups

2005

- January 11th HAC Incubator Meeting
- February 17th HAC Incubator Meeting
- January – February – numerous discussions and meetings with consumer groups to finalize the Wireless Accessibilities Conference in March.
- March 9th, CTIA Sponsors American Association of Persons with Disabilities 2005 Leadership Gala in Washington, DC and displays informational materials regarding wireless products and services of interest to consumers with disabilities
- CTIA holds first annual Wireless Accessibilities Conference on March 14 in conjunction with Wireless 2005.
- March 29th HAC Incubator Meeting
- CTIA sponsors American Academy of Audiologists Convention in Washington, DC on March 31-April 2. CTIA also designed and distributed brochures to audiologists at the three-day conference in an effort to help audiologists educate their patients on FAQs and wireless products and services.
- April 25th FCC approves ANSI C63 Revisions as a measurement standard.
- May 11th HAC Incubator Meeting
- CTIA sponsors Self Help for Hard of Hearing Convention on June 30-July 2 in Washington, DC. CTIA will be displaying informational materials and products targeted at consumers with disabilities.