

Hearing Aid Compatible Telephones
WT Docket No. 01-309
RM-8658

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Texas RSA 8 East Limited Partnership and Taylor Telecommunications, Inc. (jointly referred to as "Carrier") seeks to avail itself of the temporary relief granting HAC status to dual-mode GSM phones through August 1, 2006, as set forth in *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, WT Docket No. 01-309, FCC 05-166, released September 8, 2005 ("GSM Order").

Carrier also seeks to avail itself of the temporary relief granted to TDMA carriers through September 18, 2006, as set forth in *Order on Reconsideration and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, WT Docket No. 01-309, FCC 05-122, released June 21, 2005, and codified in amended FCC Rule Section 20.19(c)(2)(i). Carrier is eligible for TDMA relief because it is conducting a complete overbuild and: (1) offers two hearing aid-compatible handset models to customers that receive service from the overbuilt (*i.e.*, non-TDMA) portion of the network, and makes available in each retail store it owns or operates all of these handset models for consumers to test in the store, (2) is overbuilding its entire TDMA network, and (3) will complete the overbuild by September 18, 2006.

(1) Digital wireless phones tested: Carrier operates a TDMA cellular system and is constructing a GSM overlay. Carrier acquires wireless telephone handsets manufactured by Nokia ("Vendor"). Carrier obtains from Nokia hearing aid compatible

(HAC) handsets that are rated M3 under standard ANSI C63.19-2005 (“Compliant Phones”). Models tested include 6230 and 6620. Carrier also obtains Compliant Phones from Motorola. Models tested include V3 and V220. Vendors of TDMA handsets are not offering any Compliant Phones.

(2) Laboratory used: Carrier does not conduct the laboratory testing of handset devices for compliance with the ANSI C63.19 standard. Carrier relies upon its Vendor to conduct testing and to confirm the compliance of each specific handset device.

(3) Test results for each phone tested: The Compliant Phones deployed by Carrier have tested positively for M3 compliance in the 1900 MHz band.

(4) Identification of compliant phone models and ratings according to ANSI C63.19: Nokia models 6230 and 6620, and Motorola models V3 and V220, are rated M3 under standard ANSI C63.19-2005.

(5) Status of product labeling: Carrier typically relies upon its Vendor to label all products prior to their shipment to Carrier’s retail locations. The Compliant Phones offered by Carrier contain M3 product labeling and additional information.

(6) Outreach efforts: Now that Compliant Phones have become available are being publicly identified for consumers and audiologists. Compliant phones are listed on Carrier’s web site, and the information is being communicated to consumer groups. Carrier trains its retail salespeople regarding which digital wireless phones are compliant. Written materials, pamphlets and other promotional literature are provided at the point of sale, addressing the needs of individuals with hearing disabilities. Carrier conducts a consumer education program aimed at reaching hearing aid and cochlear implant users. Consumers are given a 30-day trial period within which to try out digital wireless phones to determine whether they will work properly with their hearing aids. Flexible return policies apply to consumers seeking to obtain Compliant Phones. Toward this end, Carrier has specifically instructed its sales force to make this policy known to consumers, and to assure that the flexible policy is administered to HAC phone users. Additionally, Carrier conducts outreach activities toward audiologists and hearing aid dispensers who are in a position to inform hearing aid users in advance concerning the immunity of their hearing aids and the degree of likelihood that they will be able to use particular digital wireless phones and services. Current technical and anecdotal information is made available to the public regarding the hearing aid compatibility of Carrier’s Compliant Phones in the form of handouts from Nokia and Motorola that are distributed at retail centers and in all communications with the hearing disabilities community.

(7) Retail availability of compliant phones: Compliant Phones are available in all of Carrier’s retail outlets.

(8) Incorporation of hearing aid compatibility features into newer models of digital wireless phones: Carrier is in contact with its Vendor with regard to their incorporation of HAC features into future GSM phones. Carrier is following its Vendor’s

efforts to provide dual-band GSM handsets that will be hearing aid-compatible in both the 850 MHz band and the 1900 MHz band.

(9) Activities related to ANSI C63.19 or other standards work intended to promote compliance with the FCC Order: Carrier is aware that its Vendor is undertaking to comply with the FCC's GSM Order. Carrier is ready and willing to offer additional compliant devices to interested customers, and will encourage its Vendor to expedite the availability of advanced handset devices.

(10) Number of compliant and non-compliant phone models offered at this time: Carrier's core assortment presently includes five models of TDMA handsets and five models of GSM handsets. Four of these are Compliant Phones.

(11) Differences in handset offerings among regions in service areas, if any: There are no differences in handset offerings among regions in Carrier's service area. Carrier's handset offerings are presently consistent in all markets.

(12) Ongoing efforts for interoperability testing with hearing aid devices: Carrier will rely mainly upon its Vendor to conduct interoperability testing of Compliant Phones, and will provide to consumers information about those efforts upon request.