

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20556

In the Matter of)
)
Section 68.4(a) of the)
FCC's Rules Governing) WT Docket No. 01-309
Hearing Aid Compatible)
Telephones)

FIFTH REPORT

United States Cellular Corporation ("USCC") hereby files its "Fifth Report" in the above-captioned docket concerning hearing aid compatibility pursuant to the FCC's March 8, 2004 public notice.¹ The March 2004 Notice required, *inter alia*, that wireless carriers and manufacturers file their initial reports on May 17, 2004 concerning their efforts to comply with Section 20.19 of the FCC's Rules and the FCC order which adopted that rule, which deal with use of digital wireless devices with hearing aids and that they file such reports every six months thereafter until compliance was achieved.² This is USCC's fifth report.

Background

USCC is a "Tier II" wireless carrier³ serving approximately 5.4 million cellular and PCS customers in numerous markets nationwide. It has reviewed the

¹ See Public Notice "Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Announces Hearing Aid Compatibility Reporting Dates for Wireless Carriers and Handset Manufacturers (WT Docket No. 01-309)," DA 04-630, released March 8, 2004 (19 FCC Rcd 4097) ("March 2004 Notice").

² See In the Matter of Section 68.4(a) of the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Telephones, Report and Order, 18 FCC Rcd. 16753 (2003) ("HAC Order").

³ In the Matter of Revision of the Commission's Rules To Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, Phase II Compliance Deadlines for Non-Nationwide CMRS Carriers, 17 FCC Rcd 14841, ¶23 (2002).

HAC Order and Section 20.19 of the FCC's Rules and is aware that it must meet the rule's requirements.

As applied to Tier II wireless carriers, Section 20.19 provides that by September 16, 2005 carriers had to have included in their handset offerings at least two digital handset models for each "air interface" on which they provide service which comply with the "U3" technical standard for hearing aid compatibility set out in Section 20.19(b)(1) of the rule. That section incorporates the American National Standards Institute [ANSI] technical standard C63.19 or draft standard ANSI C63.19-2005 for compatibility of digital wireless phones with hearing aids.⁴ The rule [Section 20.19(d)(2)] also provides that, by September 16, 2006, carriers must include in their handset "offerings" at least two handset models which comply with the "inductive coupling" requirements of Section 20.19(b)(2) of the FCC's Rules. Section 20.19(c)(2)(B) also contains a separate requirement that at least 50 percent of a carrier's "handset models for each air interface" must comply with Section 20.19(b)(1) by February 18, 2008. Finally, Section 20.19 contains labeling and other requirements which will apply to hearing aid compatible handsets once they are commercially available.

USCC, a CDMA carrier, currently offers the following handset models in all its retail stores which meet or surpass the relevant "U3" (also known as "M3") standard: Motorola V710; Motorola V266; Motorola V262; Kyocera KX9; Nokia 6019i; LG UX4750; and LG UX 5000. Thus, USCC complies with Section 22.19(c)(2)

⁴ See also Public Notice, "OET Clarifies Use of Revised Wireless Phone Hearing Aid Compatibility Standard Measurement Procedures and Rating Nomenclature." DA 05-115, released April 25, 2005.

of the FCC's Rules, which requires the offering of at least two handset models compliant with the "U3" standard "per air interface" by September 16, 2005. To the best of USCC's knowledge, all of those handsets it offers for sale are properly labeled by their manufacturers and their packaging material includes an appropriate explanation in accordance with Section 20.19(f) of the FCC's Rules. USCC has also provided that they can be tested in its stores in accordance with Section 20.19(c)(2)(i) of the FCC's Rules.

USCC is planning to have the following handset models available by September, 2006, which would comply with the currently applicable "inductive coupling" requirements set forth in Section 20.19(b)(2) of the Rules and as required by Section 20.19(d)(2) of the Rules: Motorola V3c; LG UX 210, LG UX 390; and LG UX 55. USCC will thus have at least two models available which comply with the requirements.

USCC Compliance Efforts.

The HAC Order (§ 89) requires wireless carriers and handset manufacturers to report every six months on compliance efforts for three years beginning with the May 17, 2004 report, and annually thereafter through the fifth year of implementation. The reports should provide information concerning: (1) digital phones tested; (2) the laboratory or laboratories used; (3) test results for each phone tested; (4) compliant phone models and ratings according to ANSI standard C63.19; (5) the status of handset labeling; (6) the status of "outreach" efforts; (7) the retail availability of compliant phones; (8) the incorporation of hearing aid compatibility

features into newer models of digital wireless phones; (9) any activities related to ANSI's standard C63.19 or other standards intended to comply with the HAC Order; (10) the total numbers of compliant and non-compliant phone models offered as of the time of the report; and (11) any ongoing efforts regarding "interoperability" testing with hearing aid devices.

Obviously, at this time only handset manufacturers and organizations such as the Alliance for Telecommunications Solutions are in a position to respond to those items above which deal with the development of compliant phones by manufacturers.

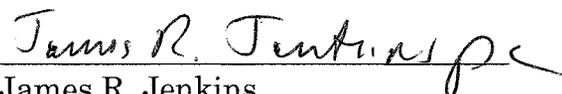
As noted above, USCC is in compliance with the HAC requirements currently applicable to it, which are also referred to in Items 4, 5, 6 and 7 above. USCC would also note, in response to Item 10 above, that seven of the handset models USCC currently offers are compliant with M3/U3 HAC standards set forth in Section 20.19(b)(1) of the FCC's Rules, which far exceeds the "two model" requirement.

Conclusion

USCC is compliant with presently applicable HAC requirements. If the FCC has additional questions at this time concerning USCC's activities in response to the HAC Order, USCC will answer them.

Respectfully submitted,

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