

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)

SEVENTH REPORT

United States Cellular Corporation ("USCC") hereby files its "Seventh 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 from 2004 through 2006, and then annually in 2007 and 2008.² This is USCC's seventh report.

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").

Background

USCC is a "Tier II" wireless carrier³ serving approximately 6 million wireless customers in numerous markets nationwide. It has reviewed the 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 complied with the "U3" (now "M3") 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 have included 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 (referred to as the "T3" standard). 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, 2008.⁵ Finally, Section 20.19 contains labeling and

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).

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.

⁵ The FCC has proposed extensive versions to his requirement in a recent Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. See In The Matter of Amendment of the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing

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 "M3" standard: Kyocera K312, Samsung a870, LG UX I45, Motorola w385c, LG UX355, LG UX 245, Samsung u520, LG UX 380, Samsung R500, Motorola KR2R K1M, MotoROKR Z6m, Motorola V9m, Samsung SCH-R610, LG 3300, LG UX 390, and Blackberry 8830. Thus, USCC complies with Section 22.19(c)(2) of the FCC's Rules, which requires the offering of at least two handset models compliant with the "M3" standard "per air interface." To the best of USCC's knowledge, all of the 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 the handsets can be tested in its stores in accordance with Section 20.19(c)(2)(i) of the FCC's Rules.

USCC also has the following handset models available, which comply with the currently applicable "T3" "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: Samsung u340; Motorola w385c; Motorola RAZR V3m; Motorola V9m; Velvet K132; Blackberry 7130; Blackberry 8703; and Blackberry 8830. USCC will be offering

Compatible Mobile Handsets; Section 68.4 of the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing Aid Compatible Telephones; Petition of American National Standards Institute Accredited Standards Committee C63 (EMC) ANSIASC C63, WT Dockets 07-250; 01-309 Second Report and Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 07-192, released November 7, 2007 ("Report and Order"). The Report and Order also has stayed the February 18, 2008 deadline for compliance with Section 20.19(c)(B) until April 18, 2008.

more models which comply with those requirements as they become commercially available.

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.

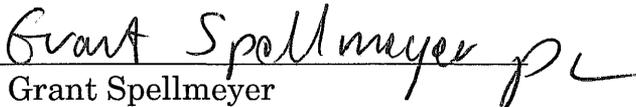
As noted above, USCC is in compliance with the HAC requirements currently applicable to it, which are also referred to in Items 4, 5, 6 and 7 above.

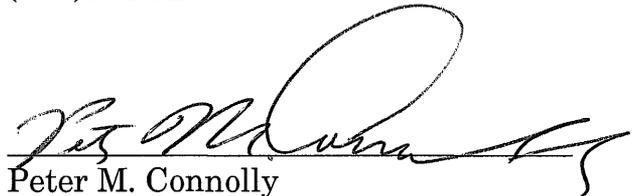
Conclusion

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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November 14, 2007

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