

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)
)
Advanced Communication Provisions of the) CG Docket No. 10-213
Twenty-First Century Communications and)
Video Accessibility Act of 2010)

**COMMENTS OF THE ALLIANCE FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS
INDUSTRY SOLUTIONS (ATIS)**

The Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS), on behalf of its Incubator Solutions Program #4 - Hearing Aid Compatibility (AISP.4-HAC), hereby submits these reply comments to the *Public Notice* in the above-captioned proceeding.¹ AISP.4-HAC appreciates an opportunity to provide input in this proceeding and commends the Commission for its swift action to begin the implementation of legislation that will ensure greater access to advanced communication services is available for millions of Americans with disabilities.

As explained below, AISP.4-HAC believes that implementation of the new record keeping provisions established in Section 717 of the *Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010*² should be

¹ *Advanced Communication Provisions of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010*, CG Docket No. 10-213, Public Notice, DA 10-2029 (released Oct. 21, 2010) ("*Public Notice*").

² See *Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010*, Pub. L. No. 111-260, 124 Stat. 2751 (2010) ("the 21st Century Communications Act")

carefully considered and be guided by a high level of set of principles, which balance consumer need for readily accessible information about product offerings with industry desire to provide such information in the least burdensome and efficient manner.

I. Background

ATIS is a global standards development and technical planning organization that is committed to providing leadership for, and the rapid development and promotion of, worldwide technical and operations standards for information, entertainment and communications technologies using a pragmatic, flexible and open approach. As an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited standards development organization, ATIS has been serving the evolving needs of the telecommunications industry for over 25 years by prioritizing the ICT industry's most pressing, technical and operational issues, and creating interoperable, implementable end-to-end solutions and standards. These solutions support the rollout of innovative products and services into the information, entertainment and communications marketplace.

ATIS' membership is diverse, including all stakeholders from the ICT industry – wireline and wireless service providers, equipment manufacturers, competitive local exchange carriers, data local exchange carriers, providers of commercial mobile radio services, broadband providers, software developers, consumer electronics companies, digital rights management companies, and internet service providers. Nearly 600 industry subject matter experts from more than 250 ICT companies work collaboratively in ATIS' 18 open industry committees and forums. Additionally, ATIS benefits from the

strategic vision provided by its Board of Directors, which is comprised of chief technology officers and senior executives of the leading ICT companies.

AISP.4-HAC was created in July 2003 to investigate performance between hearing aids and wireless devices to determine methods of enhancing interoperability and the compatibility of wireless devices with hearing aids in order for those in the hearing aid and cellular wireless industries to meet the FCC's HAC requirements. Since its inception, AISP.4-HAC participants, which include technical experts from wireless service providers and equipment manufacturers, representatives from the hearing aid industry and representatives from advocacy groups representing consumers with hearing loss, have been working together to address technical issues concerning the usability of wireless devices for consumers with hearing aids.

II. Discussion

Section 717 of the 21st Century Communications Act establishes recordkeeping requirements of manufacturers and service providers' efforts to implement Sections 255, 716 and 718.³ In the *Public Notice*, the Commission sought comment on the types of records that should be maintained for each of the categories enumerated in Section 717(a)(5).⁴ AISP.4-HAC agrees with commenters who suggest that given the existing reporting and disclosure obligations required under Section 20.19, the Commission should carefully evaluate what, if any, additional information would be needed to satisfy the statutory requirement. Should additional information be required, AISP.4-HAC believes that the Commission should be guided by the following principles:

³ See new Section 717(a)(5) of the Communications Act, to be codified at 47 U.S.C. § 618(a)(5).

⁴ See *Public Notice* at 6.

- Ensure that the additional information being sought cannot otherwise be derived by the Commission through existing reporting activities of manufacturers and services providers;
- Ensure that additional reporting is not overly burdensome or administratively costly; and
- Ensure that additional reporting would, in fact, provide consumers with the appropriate level of information needed to make informed decisions about the types of accessible products and services available in the market.⁵

AISP.4-HAC believes that an entity's compliance with Section 717 recordkeeping requirements should be flexible and does not necessarily have to take a specific form. However, should the Commission require a uniform approach, AISP.4-HAC would welcome the opportunity, as recommended in Verizon's comments⁶, to work with industry and the consumers on developing a mutually agreeable form which adheres to the guiding principles mentioned above.

III. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, AISP.4-HAC believes that the Commission's implementation of Section 717 should take into account existing reporting and disclosure obligations currently set forth in the Commission's rules to ensure that any additional reporting criteria would not be duplicative and would provide the requisite benefit to consumers.

⁵ See Motorola Comments at 9-10; Telecommunications Industry Association Comments at 24; CTIA-the Wireless Association Comments at 18.

⁶ See Verizon Comments at 6.

Respectfully submitted,

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