



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

News Media Information 202-418-0500
Internet: www.fcc.gov

DA 24-1155

Released: November 19, 2024

THE WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU REMINDS WIRELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS OF THE UPCOMING DEADLINE TO FILE FCC FORM 855 CERTIFICATIONS

WT Docket No. 23-388

The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (Bureau) reminds wireless service providers of the upcoming deadline to file FCC Form 855 certifications. FCC Form 855 certifications are due by January 31, 2025, and will cover the calendar year from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. The FCC Form 855 certification filing window will open on January 2, 2025. The FCC Form 855 certification site can be accessed at <https://www.fcc.gov/filing-hearing-aid-compatibility-reports-and-certifications>.

The Commission requires wireless service providers to file FCC Form 855 certifications to ensure compliance with the Commission's wireless hearing aid compatibility rules. 47 CFR § 20.19(i)(1). Service providers who offer handset models for sale or use in the United States are required to annually file this form. The Commission defines a wireless service provider as a provider of digital mobile service in the United States. 47 CFR § 20.19(a). This definition includes mobile virtual network operators (MVNOs) and wireless resellers.

The Bureau reminds service providers that unless they qualify for one of the *de minimis* exceptions (47 CFR § 20.19(e)), the current hearing aid compatibility handset model deployment benchmark is 85%. 47 CFR § 20.19(c)(2)(ii), (3)(ii). This benchmark applies to both nationwide and non-nationwide service providers. *Id.* A service provider can derive this percentage by dividing the number of hearing aid-compatible handset models that it offered across all air interfaces for the reporting period by the total number of handset models (hearing aid-compatible and non-hearing aid-compatible) that it offered for the reporting period.¹

Service providers that operate publicly accessible websites must include the website address where the information required by the hearing aid compatibility website posting rules can be found. 47 CFR § 20.19(h). Commission staff will review the provided website address to ensure compliance with the hearing aid compatibility website posting requirements. If a service provider did not operate a publicly accessible website for the reporting period, then the service provider should type the following

¹ We note that the Commission recently adopted a 100% hearing aid compatibility requirement that will replace the current 85% handset model deployment benchmark. *Achieving 100% Wireless Handset Model Hearing Aid Compatibility*, WT Docket No. 23-388, Report and Order, FCC 24-112 (Oct. 18, 2024). The 100% hearing aid compatibility requirement will become effective for handset manufacturers after December 14, 2026, and for nationwide service providers after June 14, 2027. For non-nationwide service providers, the 100% hearing aid compatibility requirement will take effect after June 13, 2028. See FCC, *Achieving 100% Wireless Handset Model Hearing Aid Compatibility*, 89 Fed. Reg. 89832, 89865-66 (Nov. 13, 2024). While the Federal Register summary lists the effective date for non-nationwide service providers as after June 12, 2028, this date will be corrected to June 13, 2028.

statement into the website address box: “For the reporting period, [name of company] did not operate a publicly accessible website.”

In addition, a knowledgeable executive must certify whether the service provider was in full compliance with all the applicable wireless hearing aid compatibility requirements for the reporting period. 47 CFR § 20.19(i)(1). The service provider must represent and warrant, and the knowledgeable executive declares under penalty of perjury, that the certification is truthful and accurate. 47 CFR § 20.19(i)(2)(vi). The service provider must also acknowledge that false statements and misrepresentations to the Commission are punishable and may subject it to enforcement action. *Id.*

Service providers that certify they were not in full compliance with the wireless hearing aid compatibility rules for the reporting period must submit an attachment explaining which wireless hearing aid compatibility requirements the service provider was not in full compliance with, and when the non-compliance began and (if applicable) ended with respect to each requirement. 47 CFR § 20.19(i)(2)(vii).

Further, service providers must ensure that the contact information that is provided is accurate and complete and can be used to directly contact the signing executive should Commission staff have a question about the filing company’s certification. The signing executive must include his or her first and last name, middle initial, and title. The executive must also provide his or her business address, complete phone number, including area code and extension, and email address. If the filing company is a non-U.S. company, the company’s U.S. business office address and phone number must be included. If the filing company does not have a U.S. business office address, then the filer must use its U.S. agent’s address.

Failure to timely and accurately file FCC Form 855 certifications could lead to enforcement proceedings and possible forfeitures.

For further information concerning this notice, contact Eli Johnson, FCC, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Competition & Infrastructure Policy Division, (202) 418-1395, eli.johnson@fcc.gov.

– FCC –