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May 30, 2008

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 07-250  
*Ex Parte* Presentation

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In accordance with the Commission's February 28, 2008, *First Report and Order* in the above-referenced docket, the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions ("ATIS"), on behalf of its Incubator Solutions Program #4 - Hearing Aid Compatibility ("AISP.4-HAC"), hereby submits the set of consensus-developed general principles that address hearing aid compatibility of handsets with multiple frequency bands and/or modes for which no hearing-aid compatible standard exists.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's rules, one copy of this letter is being filed electronically for inclusion in the public record of the above-referenced proceeding.

Sincerely,

Deirdre Y. Cheek  
Attorney

Attachment

**Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions Incubator Solutions Program  
#4 - Hearing Aid Compatibility (“AISP.4-HAC”)**

**Multi-Band General Principles**

As of: May 27 2008

1. This effort applies only to U.S. Commercial Mobile Radio Service (defined in 47 CFR §20.3), for handsets operating in a normal use voice mode and typically held to the ear.
2. To effectively address hearing aid compatibility in new bands and/or voice modes, it is best to have all stakeholders, including the wireless and hearing aid industries, researchers, and consumers work together cooperatively.
3. Wireless carriers and manufacturers should investigate hearing aid compatibility early in the product development process to identify and address potential HAC issues with the intent to make HAC devices available as close as possible to a product’s launch to the general public.
4. Manufacturers and carriers will develop and validate methods to identify the interference potential of each new band and/or voice mode for which there is no HAC standard. Additional details, to be submitted to the FCC by September 12, 2008, will include a deadline for creating this method.
5. Once the FCC releases service rules for a new band and/or voice mode, the industry shall conduct an analysis of the new band or voice mode based on the method(s) developed in #4 to determine whether or not there is an issue for hearing aid compatibility with M2 or better hearing aids. The compiled industry results of the analysis for such new band and/or mode will be communicated to the FCC and consumers within a designated period of time. This period of time shall be designated in the detailed version of these consensus principles, to be provided to the FCC by September 12, 2008.
6. If no hearing aid compatibility issues are identified by the analysis conducted pursuant to #5 above, then (1) a HAC standard for the new band and/or voice mode need not be developed; and (2) the device packaging for handsets that contain the new band or mode may be labeled with a HAC rating so long as all other CMRS bands in the handset are HAC compliant, and such labeling follows compliance with all other CMRS bands for which a measurement standard exists.
7. If hearing aid compatibility issues are identified by the analysis conducted pursuant to #5 above and there is no identified HAC standard for that band or voice mode, then:
  - a) An ANSI accredited standards body must develop a HAC standard for the new band and/or mode within a designated period of time to be determined by the

FCC, with consideration given to both the standards development process and the need for the consumers to have a standard.

b) Until such time that the device conforms to the new FCC approved standard, device packaging shall be labeled with the HAC rating for all other CMRS bands/voice modes for which standards have been developed. During this period, information that the new band and/or voice mode does not yet have a HAC standard will be conveyed in writing to the consumer at the point of sale, in the form of an insert or text in boxed manuals, and through company websites.

8. These principles will only apply if (1) the primary operating state of the phone, when used for voice communication, is HAC and (2) other transmission modes that are provided in the same phone do not negatively impact the compatibility of the phone for the user. Industry and consumers are still negotiating the details of this principle and may modify the language of this clause and/or provide more details regarding this principle in the September 12, 2008, submission to the FCC.

9. Beginning twelve months after the publication in the Federal Register of a hearing aid compatibility standard for the new band and/or voice mode, a new handset containing this new band and/or voice mode cannot be labeled as HAC compliant nor counted as a compliant handset if it does not meet the new FCC adopted standard; handsets certified prior to that point can continue to be counted as HAC compliant handsets.

10. To provide access to new technologies expeditiously to people with hearing loss, it is critical that all stakeholders including the wireless industry, consumers and the FCC remain engaged on this issue.

11. The wireless industry and consumers recognize the need to develop action plans and timelines for the activities proposed in this high level submission. These, as well as additional details, will be submitted in consensus principles to be provided to the FCC by September 12, 2008.