

§ 68.4 Hearing aid-compatible telephones.

(a)(1) Except for telephones used with public mobile services, telephones used with private radio services, and cordless and secure telephones, every telephone manufactured in the United States (other than for export) or imported for use in the United States after August 16, 1989, must be hearing aid compatible, as defined in § 68.316. Every cordless telephone manufactured in the United States (other than for export) or imported into the United States after August 16, 1991, must be hearing aid compatible, as defined in § 68.316.

(2) Unless otherwise stated and except for telephones used with public mobile services, telephones used with private radio services and secure telephones, every telephone listed in § 68.112 must be hearing aid compatible, as defined in § 68.316.

(3) A telephone is hearing aid-compatible if it provides internal means for effective use with hearing aids that are designed to be compatible with telephones which meet established technical standards for hearing aid compatibility.

(4) The Commission shall revoke or otherwise limit the exemptions of paragraph (a)(1) of this section for telephones used with public mobile services or telephones used with private radio services if it determines that (i) such revocation or limitation is in the public interest; (ii) continuation of the exemption without such revocation or limitation would have an adverse effect on hearing-impaired individuals; (iii) compliance with the requirements of § 68.4(a)(1) is technologically feasible for the telephones to which the exemption applies; and (iv) compliance with the requirements of § 68.4(a)(1) would not increase costs to such an extent that the telephones to which the exemption applies could not be successfully marketed.

[54 FR 21430, May 18, 1989, as amended at 55 FR 28763, July 13, 1990; 57 FR 27183, June 18, 1992; 61 FR 42186, Aug. 14, 1996]

§ 68.5 Waivers.

The Commission may, upon the application of any interested person, initiate a proceeding to waive the require-

ments of § 68.4(a)(1) with respect to new telephones, or telephones associated with a new technology or service. The Commission shall not grant such a waiver unless it determines, on the basis of evidence in the record of such proceeding, that such telephones, or such technology or service, are in the public interest, and that (a) compliance with the requirements of § 68.4(a)(1) is technologically infeasible, or (b) compliance with such requirements would increase the costs of the telephones, or of the technology or service, to such an extent that such telephones, technology, or service could not be successfully marketed. In any proceeding under this section to grant a waiver from the requirements of § 68.4(a)(1), the Commission shall consider the effect on hearing-impaired individuals of granting the waiver. The Commission shall periodically review and determine the continuing need for any waiver granted pursuant to this section.

[54 FR 21430, May 18, 1989]

§ 68.6 Telephones with volume control.

As of January 1, 2000, all telephones, including cordless telephones, as defined in § 15.3(j) of this chapter, manufactured in the United States (other than for export) or imported for use in the United States, must have volume control in accordance with § 68.317. Secure telephones, as defined by § 68.3 are exempt from this section, as are telephones used with public mobile services or private radio services.

[62 FR 43484, Aug. 14, 1997]

Subpart B—Conditions on Use of Terminal Equipment

§ 68.100 General.

In accordance with the rules and regulations in subpart B of this part, terminal equipment may be directly connected to the public switched telephone network and to those private line services included in § 68.2(a).

[51 FR 944, Jan. 9, 1986]

§ 68.102 Registration requirement.

Terminal equipment must be registered in accordance with the rules

and regulations in subpart C of this part, or connected through registered protective circuitry, which is registered in accordance with the rules and regulations in subpart C of this part.

§ 68.104 Means of connection.

(a) *General.* Any jack installed by the telephone company at, or constituting, the demarcation point shall conform to subpart F of this part. Subject to the requirements of § 68.213, connection of wiring and terminal equipment to the telephone network may be made through a jack conforming to subpart F or by direct attachment to carrier-installed wiring including, but not limited to, splicing, bridging, twisting and soldering. Telephone company-provided ringers may be connected to the network in accordance with the carrier's reasonable and nondiscriminatory standard operating practices. Connection to the network of wiring subject to § 68.215 and terminal equipment used therewith shall be through telephone company-provided jacks conforming to subpart F of this part, in such a manner as to allow for easy and immediate disconnection.

(b) *Data equipment.* Where a customer desires to connect data equipment which has been registered in accordance with § 68.308(b)(4)(i) or (ii), he shall notify the telephone company of each telephone line to which he intends to connect such equipment. The telephone company after determining the attenuation of each such telephone line between the interface and the telephone company central office, will make such connections as are necessary in each standard data jack which it will install, so as to allow the maximum signal power delivered by such data equipment to the telephone company central office to reach but not exceed the maximum allowable signal power permitted at the telephone company central office.

(c) *Tariff description.* As an alternative to description in subpart F of these rules, connections to the telephone network may be made through standard plugs and standard telephone company-provided jacks or equivalent described in nationwide telephone tariffs: *Provided*, That these means of con-

nection otherwise comply with paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

[45 FR 20853, Mar. 31, 1980, as amended at 55 FR 28630, July 12, 1990; 61 FR 42392, Aug. 15, 1996; 61 FR 47434, Sept. 9, 1996]

§ 68.106 Notification to telephone company.

(a) *General.* Customers connecting terminal equipment or protective circuitry to the telephone network shall, upon request of the telephone company, inform the telephone company of the particular line(s) to which such connection is made, the FCC registration number and ringer equivalence number of the registered terminal equipment or registered protective circuitry.

(b) *Systems assembled of combinations of individually-registered terminal equipment and protective circuitry.* Customers connecting such assemblages to the telephone network shall, upon the request of the telephone company, provide to the telephone company the following information:

(1) For each line:

(i) Information required for compatible operation of the equipment with telephone company communications facilities.

(ii) The FCC Registration Numbers for all equipment dedicated to that line.

(iii) The largest Ringer Equivalence to be presented to that line.

(2) A list of FCC Registration Numbers for equipment to be used in the system.

(c) *Systems using other than "fully-protected" premises wiring.* Customers who intend to connect premises wiring other than "fully-protected" premises wiring to the telephone network shall, in addition to the foregoing, give notice to the telephone company in accordance with § 68.215(e).

(d) *AIOD trunk and station number verification.* Customers who intend to install or have installer performed additions to and rearrangements of AIOD functions shall give notice to the telephone company in accordance with § 68.222(d).

(e) *OPS.* Customers who intend to connect to OPS facilities shall inform the telephone company of OPS class for