

# Listen ADA Solutions

Navigating through the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) can often prove to be a challenge for organizations to easily understand the intent of ADA, in particular Title III and providing assistive listening devices for hard of hearing people.

After reading this interactive white paper you will understand:

- 2010 changes to the ADA – as it relates to ALDs
- Impacts of hearing loss
- Why providing assistive listening is not just about compliance
- How to meet the requirements of your facility or project
- Funding an assistive listening system



*Don't miss a single sound.*

**Listen**<sup>®</sup>  
[www.listentech.com](http://www.listentech.com)

## Public Facilities That Need to Comply

- Courtrooms
- Hotels
- Theaters
- Convention Centers
- Stadiums
- Arenas
- Hospitals
- Museums
- Libraries
- Parks
- Zoos
- Amusement Parks
- Private Schools
- Day Care Centers
- Health Spas

## The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

The ADA is a civil rights law, not a building code. Signed into law in 1990, the ADA prohibits discrimination by requiring accessibility to a variety of public and private buildings. The ADA has requirements for new construction, alterations, or renovations to buildings and facilities and for improving access to existing facilities of private companies providing goods or services to the public. While the ADA prohibits discrimination, it is the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) developed by the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (or The Access Board) that defines specifics, placing requirements on elevations, storage, access, visual recall, graphics and others as they relate to the disabled.

It is left to the Department of Justice (DOJ) to enforce the law, which it does so under five categories. The three largest are Title I – Employment practices by units of state and local government, Title II – Programs, services and activities of state and local government and Title III – Public accommodations and commercial facilities.

[Americans with Disabilities Act Homepage](#) ►

## The Intent Of ADA, Title III

Essentially, owners of public facilities must remove barriers and provide people with disabilities with accommodation equal to, or similar to, that available to the general public.

This includes providing **assistive listening devices (ALDs)** (Figure 1) for hard of hearing people.

## Assistive Listening Devices

Under the mandate of the ADA, thousands of public meeting areas have been and are being equipped with Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs) allowing individuals to experience an enhanced auditory experience.

These installations are being designed to help people better understand speech, music, and other sounds during a movie, performance, lecture, meeting or worship service whether they are hard of hearing or not. People deserve to experience every word, every moment, ALDs make that a reality.

Like a hearing aid, an assistive listening device makes sounds louder. Typically a hearing aid makes all sounds in the environment louder. An assistive listening device increases the loudness of a desired sound (a radio or television, a public speaker, an actor or actress) without increasing the loudness of the background noise.

All assistive listening systems can be used with an induction loop for hearing aids with a T-Coil. [Contact Listen for more information.](#) ►



Figure 1. LR-500 Portable Programmable Display Receiver with Ear Speaker ►

## Impact\*

36 million Americans suffer from hearing loss

17 in 1,000 children under 18 have hearing loss

1 in 5 teens show a degree of hearing loss - up 30%

## VIDEO: HLA A - Hearing Loss Basic Facts



Figure 2. Delivering an enriched individual listening experience.

**VIDEO TESTIMONIAL:**  
Maria Boden explains how Listen Assistive Listening Solutions have improved her life. ▶

### Meeting Your Business Objectives

- Increased Revenue
- Customer Satisfaction
- Optimized Community Relations
- Costly Litigation Avoidance
- Attract New Customers
- Increased Return Visits
- Improved Experience for Clients

### Not Just About Compliance

While many organizations provide this solution to be in compliance, it is important to note that providing assistive listening is not just about the hearing impaired.

Assistive Listening products help solve frustrating but common sound problems caused by distance, background noise, reverberation or poor room acoustics.

Everyone deserves the chance to fully experience an event whether they are hard of hearing or not. Listen Technologies wants you to have the assistive listening solution you need to enrich your customer's experience (Figure 2).

Our solutions include convenient, wireless equipment that help you personalize the sound experience, so those who need extra assistance for any reason can hear effortlessly and enjoy a more full, rich experience.

### Good For Business

ADA compliance is not only the right thing to do, it makes good business sense. People with disabilities make up a significant percentage of the population. By providing them easier access in and around your building, you reach a wider audience and create more opportunity for increased business.

According to government accounting businesses that made accessibility improvements experienced a 12% increase in business.

In 2003, Disabled Americans spent \$3.6 billion on a combination of work and leisure travel.

Disabled Americans have \$175 billion in discretionary spending power! Within 27 years, the population age of 65+ years will increase over 60% and 1 in 5 adults will be age 65 or older.

Disabled Americans have a consumer spending power of \$220 billion annually.

The simple fact is that people with disabilities are looking to experience things just like anybody else. They don't want to feel disadvantaged and having an assistive listening system makes sure they don't.

*"I am impressed and gratified with the level of commitment to sound quality you have shown me. Enjoying good quality sound, especially in our beautiful Hult Center, means so much to those of us with hearing loss. Once you've lost some hearing, good quality sound is much more appreciated."*

- Linda Diaz, Hult Center for the Performing Arts

## VIDEO: Hale Center Theater Offers Listen ALDs



### Applicable Standards

Before 09.15.2010

1991 Standards or UFAS

On or after 09.15.2010  
And before 03.15.2012

1991 Standards, UFAS,  
or 2010 Standards

On or after 03.15.2012

2010 Standards

## 2010 Notice of Changes In The ADA Standards For Accessible Design

In 2010 the Department of Justice's revised regulations for Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 were published in the Federal Register on September 15, 2010.

Review the complete scope and technical requirements for new construction and alterations resulting from the adoption of revised 2010 Standards in the final rules for Title II (28 CFR part 35) and Title III (28 CFR part 36) by clicking this link:

[2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design ►](#)

## 2010 Changes To Assistive Listening Systems

### 219 Assistive Listening Systems



Figure 3. LA-304 ADA Signage Kit ▶

**703.7.2.2.216.10** Assistive Listening Systems. Each assembly area required by 219 to provide assistive listening systems shall provide signs informing patrons of the availability of the assistive listening system. Assistive listening signs shall comply with 703.5 and shall include the International Symbol of Access for Hearing Loss complying with 703.7.2.4.

**EXCEPTION:** Where ticket offices or windows are provided, signs shall not be required at each assembly area provided that signs are displayed at each ticket office or window informing patrons of the availability of assistive listening systems. (Such as the Listen Technologies Corporation LA-304 ADA Signage Kit. Figure 3)

**219.1 General.** Assistive listening systems shall be provided in accordance with 219 and shall comply with 706.

**219.2 Required Systems.** In each assembly area where audible communication is integral to the use of the space, an assistive listening system shall be provided.

**EXCEPTION:** Other than in courtrooms, assistive listening systems shall not be required where audio amplification is not provided.

**219.3 Receivers.** Receivers complying with 706.2 shall be provided for assistive listening systems in each assembly area in accordance with Table 219.3. Twenty-five percent minimum of receivers provided, but no fewer than two, shall be hearing-aid compatible in accordance with 706.3. 706.3 Receiver Hearing-Aid Compatibility. Receivers required to be hearing-aid compatible shall interface with telecoils in hearing aids through the provision of neckloops.

(Such as the Listen Technologies Corporation LA-166 with any FM system or IR system that has a headset output jack. Figure 4)



Figure 4. LA-166 Neck Loop ▶

**Assistive Listening System (ALS).** An amplification system utilizing transmitters, receivers, and coupling devices to bypass the acoustical space between a sound source and a listener by means of induction loop, radio frequency, infrared, or direct-wired equipment.

(Such as the Listen Technologies Corporation LS-86 ADA Standard IR System or LS-ADA Basic FM Assistive Listening System. Figure 5)



Figure 5. LS-ADA Basic FM Assistive ▶

**Assembly Area.** A building or facility, or portion thereof, used for the purpose of entertainment, educational or civic gatherings, or similar purposes. For the purposes of these requirements, assembly areas include, but are not limited to, classrooms, lecture halls, courtrooms, public meeting rooms, public hearing rooms, legislative chambers, motion picture houses, auditoria, theaters, playhouses, dinner theaters, concert halls, centers for the performing arts, amphitheaters, arenas, stadiums, grandstands, or convention centers.

**Table 219.3 Receivers for Assistive Listening Systems**

Capacity of Seating in Assembly Area	Minimum Number of Required Receivers Contact Listen for customized quote to accommodate area	Minimum Number of Required Receivers Required to be Hearing Aid Compatible (Using Listen LA-166)
50 or less	2	2
51 to 200	2, plus 1 per 25 seats over 50 seats *	2
201 to 500	2, plus 1 per 25 seats over 50 seats *	1 per 4 receivers*
501 to 1,000	20, plus 1 per 33 seats over 500 seats *	1 per 4 receivers*
1,001 to 2,000	35, plus 1 per 50 seats over 1,000 seats *	1 per 4 receivers*
2,001 and over	55, plus 1 per 100 seats over 2,000 seats *	1 per 4 receivers*



Figure 6. LS-16 ADA Standard FM System ▶

LS-17 ADA Value Stationary FM System ▶



Figure 7. LS-86 ADA Standard IR System ▶

## Comprehensive Listen ADA Solutions

Listen Technologies offers four assistive listening systems designed to meet the needs of the new ADA standards.

The LS-16, LS-17 and LS-ADA are FM systems and the LS-86 is an Infrared system. All four systems meet the ADA definition of an ALS - "an amplification system using transmitters, receivers, and coupling devices to bypass the acoustical space between a sound source and a listener by means of radio frequency (FM) or infrared." (Figures 6, 7).

Additionally, the systems include the minimum number of receivers and minimum number of receivers required to be hearing aid compatible for an assembly area with seating capacity of 250.

Listen offers free 30-day no obligation demonstrations and All systems offer a limited lifetime warranty. [Contact Listen for more information.](#) ▶

### ADA Tax Incentives

*Tax Credit -  
Section 44  
Internal Revenue Code*

Up to \$5,000

*Tax Deduction -  
Section 190  
Internal Revenue Code*

Up to \$15,000

## Using Tax Credits To Fund Assistive Listening

The Federal Government has continued to recognize the importance of providing those with disabilities access to public facilities thus allowing them to participate fully in life's many activities.

The Government's commitment is evident by the multiple tax incentives that are available to help businesses comply with the ADA.

[Tax Credit \(Section 44 of the Internal Revenue Code\)](#) ▶

### Tax Credit Uses

Removal of architectural barriers in facilities

Purchase of adaptive equipment (ALS)

Fees for consulting services

### Funding Resources

- Sponsorship
- Banks
- Professional Association
- Corporations
- Foundations
- Grants
- Service Clubs
- Social Media
- Events

Created in 1990 this credit is designed to help small businesses with either revenues of less than \$1,000,000 or less than 30 full-time employees, cover ADA-related expenditures. This credit can be used to cover a variety of items, including:

Removal of architectural barriers in facilities, purchase of adaptive equipment fees for consulting service.

The amount of tax credit is equal to 50% of the eligible expenditures in a year, up to a maximum expenditure of \$10,250. There is no credit for the first \$250 of expenditures. The maximum tax credit therefore is \$5,000.

### [Tax Deduction \(Section 190 of the Internal Revenue Code\) ►](#)

Businesses may use this deduction to help in the removal of architectural or transportation barriers so long as the improvements are in line with current accessibility requirements.

Businesses are able to expense up to \$15,000 annually. These incentives can be used in combination if the expenditures qualify under both Section 190 and Section 44.

### Raising Funds For Assistive Listening

Many non-profits find approaching foundations for grants and more recently, corporations for sponsorship, the best use of their limited staff resources.

There are an infinite number of ways to raise the \$800-\$2,000 you might need for an assistive listening system. A topic deserving of it's own thorough focus.

### [Listen Blog Post for Raising Funds ►](#)

### Contact Listen for More Information

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