

California Building Code (CBC)

Requirements for Assistive Listening

Why?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 5% of the world's population experience disruptive or severe hearing loss. Assistive listening products help solve common sound problems caused by distance, background noise, reverberation, or poor room acoustics.

What?

The State of California relies on the **California Building Code (CBC)** to outline the compliance laws for facilities that serve people with hearing disabilities in California. While California has adopted the format of the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the exact code was not adopted. For example, ADA sections 219 & 706 are listed in the California Building code as **11B-219 and 11B-706**.

Note, in these two areas the CBC is significantly different from the ADA:

1. 11B-219.2 Required systems. An assistive listening system shall be provided in assembly areas, including **conference and meeting rooms**.
2. Houses of Worship DEFINITIONS of ASSEMBLY AREA. [DSA-AC]

11B-244 Religious facilities

11B-244.1 General. Religious facilities shall be accessible in accordance with the provisions in the code; specific areas that contain more than one use, each portion shall comply with the applicable requirements for that use.

In other words, California has deemed houses of worship to be classified as assembly areas, therefore, they are not exempt from the CBC like they are in the ADA requirements.

Assembly Areas

Assembly areas are defined as, but not limited to, the following spaces:

• Classrooms • Lecture Halls • Courtrooms • Public Meeting Rooms • Public Hearing Rooms • Legislative Chambers • Motion Picture Houses • Auditoria • Theaters • Playhouses • Concert halls • Centers for the Performing Arts • Amphitheaters • Stadiums • Convention Centers • Conference & Meeting Rooms

Assistive Listening System (ALS) is defined as an amplification system utilizing transmitters, receivers, and coupling devices to bypass the acoustical space between a sound source and a listener by means of an induction loop (hearing loop), radio frequency (RF), infrared (IR), or other direct-wired equipment.

How? CBC's requirements for the number of assistive listening receivers required:

Capacity of Seating in Assembly Area*	Minimum Number of Required Receivers	Minimum Number of Hearing-Aid Compatible Required Receivers
1-50 seats	2	2
51+ seats	4% of the total amount of seating	25%

*Permanently installed assistive listening systems are required in areas if (1) they accommodate at least 50 persons and have audio-amplification systems, and (2) they have fixed seating.

Did you know? Failure to comply with CBC Assistive Listening requirements can result in large fines!

For assembly areas with a seating capacity between 1-50, consider this all-in-one, portable system.



ListenTALK Portable ADA Kit 2

Meet CBC requirements with this easily transported assistive listening solution.

- Takes less than a minute to set-up and use
- Simple user interface (no channel surfing)
- Easily portable

Visit www.listentech.com/assistive-listening/compliance-systems
for more assistive listening options

For details on compliance, visit www.listentech.com/legislative-compliance



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