Assistive Listening

What's Required and Why it's Needed

Assistive listening allows listeners to engage, connect, and feel included by delivering audio directly to their ear without amplifying ambient noise.

Did you know that 1 in 5 people live with hearing loss?

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines for assistive listening aim to eliminate barriers and enhance communication accessibility in public settings to accommodate those living with hearing loss. These guidelines apply to a wide range of venues.

Where is Assistive Listening Required?

According to ADA section 219.2, in each assembly area where audible communications are integral to the use of the space, an assistive listening system shall be provided.

What is an Assembly Area?

An assembly area is defined in the ADA* as a building or facility, used for the purpose of entertainment, educational, civic gatherings, or similar. Assembly areas include, but are not limited to:

- Classrooms
- Courtrooms
- Theaters
- Concert Halls
- Arenas
- Convention Centers

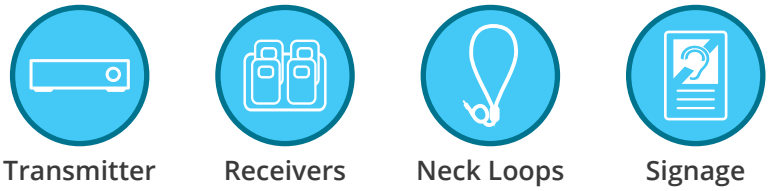
*For a full list visit ADA section 106.5

What is an Assistive Listening System (ALS)?

An assistive listening system is technology that delivers audio directly to the listener. The audio (microphone, auxiliary output, computer audio, or other audio source) is delivered via a transmitter to a receiver which sends audio direct to headphones, hearing aids, or cochlear implants, enabling individuals to hear clearly.

Required Components of an ALS

To meet ADA compliance requirements, a space must be equipped with a transmitter, receivers and neck loops (total number based on seating capacity), and signage (at each entrance or at a ticket booth).



How Many Receivers are Required?

Receivers are required in each assembly area in accordance with ADA table 219.3. Twenty-five percent minimum of receivers provided, but no fewer than two, shall be hearing-aid compatible. Receivers are hearing aid compatible when used with a neck loop. To calculate see the table below or use our ADA Calculator.

Assembly Area Capacity	Receivers	Neck Loops
50 or less	2	2
51-200	2 + 1 per 25 seats over 50 seats*	2
201-500	2 + 1 per 25 seats over 50 seats*	1 per 4 receivers*
501-1000	20 + 1 per 33 seats over 500 seats*	1 per 4 receivers*
1001-2000	20 + 1 per 50 seats over 1000 seats*	1 per 4 receivers*
2001 and over	55 + 1 per 100 seats over 2000 seats*	1 per 4 receivers*

* or fraction thereof

What Technologies are Available for ALS?

ListenWIFI

Audio Over Wi-Fi
Receivers & Mobile App

ListenIR

Infrared
Secure & Expandable

ListenRF

Radio Frequency
Simple & Reliable

ListenTALK

DECT
Wireless & Portable

Hearing Loop

Induction Loop
Direct to Hearing Aid

Create accessible and inclusive experiences with assistive listening.

Learn more: Global Compliance | Assistive Listening Solutions

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