

ADA Assistive Listening Compliance

What venues need to know to meet legal requirements and give every guest a great experience.



Why Compliance Matters

Over 5% of the world's population (430 million people) live with disabling hearing loss, and that number is expected to rise to over 700 million by 2050. Everyone knows a person with hearing loss, yet those living with this disability often go unnoticed. A common misconception is that hearing aids are a fix-all solution. Despite how helpful hearing aids can be, they don't work for every situation. An assistive listening system is needed in places with a lot of ambient sound to block out unwanted noise and deliver sound directly to people's ears.



What the ADA Requires

- An assistive listening system must be provided in every assembly area where audible communication is integral to the use of the space (ADA Standards, Section 219).
- Applies to classrooms, courtrooms, public meeting rooms, theaters, concert halls, arenas, stadiums, convention centers, and similar assembly areas.
- At least 25% of receivers provided (minimum two) must be hearing-aid compatible, or telecoil capable.
- Receivers must be available on request. Guests shouldn't have to search for them.
- A BYOD/smartphone streaming option does not replace the requirement to have dedicated receivers on hand.

Penalties and Incentives

- Non-compliance can result in DOJ civil penalties ranging from \$55,000 to \$150,000.
- Small businesses may qualify for up to a \$5,000 [tax credit](#).
- Any size business may qualify for up to a \$15,000 tax deduction ([IRS Form 8826](#)).

Minimum Receivers by Seating Capacity

Seating Capacity	Min. Required Receivers	Min. Hearing-Aid Compatible
50 or less	2	2
51 to 200	2 + 1 per 25 seats over 50	1 per 4 receivers
201 to 500	2 + 1 per 25 seats over 50	1 per 4 receivers
501 to 1000	20 + 1 per 33 seats over 500	1 per 4 receivers
1001 to 2000	35 + 1 per 50 seats over 1000	1 per 4 receivers
2001 and over	55 + 1 per 100 seats over 2000	1 per 4 receivers

The table reflects ADA (federal) requirements. Use the Accessibility Calculator below to get your venue's exact requirement in seconds.

California venues: The California Building Code (Title 24, Chapter 11B-219/706) does not adopt the ADA table. CBC instead requires receivers equal to 4% of total seating capacity, plus 25% of those as hearing-aid compatible (neck loops). This often means more receivers than the ADA minimum for larger venues. Select "California" in the Accessibility Calculator to get your exact CBC count.

Signage Is Part of Compliance

Clear, visible assistive listening signage is the law under the ADA and CBC. Proper signage lets visitors know that assistive listening systems are available. Use our free ALS Signage Generator linked below to ensure your venue is fully compliant with these requirements.



Get Compliant in Minutes

- [Accessibility Calculator — find your required receiver count](#)
- [Assistive Listening Signage Generator — create compliant signage](#)