

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 16, 2016

Recommendation of the FCC Disability Advisory Committee
Video Programming Subcommittee

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission has sought the advice of the Disability Advisory Committee (“Committee”) on whether there is a consensus on formatting offline captioning in all upper case letters (“all-caps”) or in a mixture of upper case letters and lower case letters (“mixed-case”);

WHEREAS, consumer group members of DAC believe that mixed-case captions best serve the needs of most consumers;

WHEREAS, rendering mixed-case text in alternate presentation formats is easier in principle than the reverse;

WHEREAS, FCC rules require the inclusion of a selectable “small capitals” font in certain apparatus;

WHEREAS, FCC rules require certain apparatus to provide users with the ability to vary the size of captioned text and to provide a range of such sizes from 50% of the default character size to 200% of the default character size;

WHEREAS, some representatives of the Committee’s Captioning Working Group believe that the small-caps font style and/or the ability to change the size of captions may serve as a workable substitute for consumers who prefer all-caps captions;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS --

RECOMMENDED, that as a best practice, captions for offline-captioned programming be produced originally in mixed-case;

RECOMMENDED further, that programming originally produced with all-caps captions need not be re-captioned in a mixed-case format;

RECOMMENDED further that the FCC and members of the DAC educate users about the availability of the options to modify mixed-case captions through use of various attributes in certain apparatus.