



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L St., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
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Media Bureau Reminds Television Broadcasters that Audio Description Rules apply to DMAs 101 Through 110 as of January 1, 2025

MB Docket No. 11-43

On October 17, 2023, the Commission adopted the *2023 Audio Description Order*, which continues the expansion of the Commission's audio description rules to an additional 10 designated market areas (DMAs) per year until all DMAs are included.¹ Audio description makes video programming more accessible to individuals who are blind or visually impaired through "[t]he insertion of audio narrated descriptions of a television program's key visual elements into natural pauses between the program's dialogue."² The Commission's audio description rules require certain television broadcast stations and multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs) to provide audio description for a portion of the video programming they televise to consumers.³ We remind television broadcasters that the audio description rules next will extend to DMAs 101 through 110 on January 1, 2025.⁴

As set forth in the *2023 Audio Description Order*, compliance deadlines going forward will apply to the relevant DMAs as determined by The Nielsen Company as of January 1, 2023.⁵ Accordingly, the audio description rules will extend to the following DMAs on January 1, 2025:

1. Tri-Cities, Tennessee-Virginia
2. Reno
3. Greenville-New Bern-Washington
4. Davenport-Rock Island-Moline
5. Tallahassee-Thomasville
6. Lincoln & Hastings-Kearney
7. Evansville
8. Ft. Wayne
9. Johnstown-Altoona-State College

¹ *Video Description: Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010*, Second Report and Order, MB Docket No. 11-43, 38 FCC Rcd 9774 (2023) (*2023 Audio Description Order*). See also *Video Description: Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010*, Report and Order, MB Docket No. 11-43, 35 FCC Rcd 12577 (2020) (previously expanding the availability of audio description by phasing the requirements in for an additional 10 DMAs each year for four years, concluding with DMAs 91-100 on January 1, 2024).

² See 47 CFR § 79.3(a)(3).

³ See *id.* § 79.3(b).

⁴ *Id.* § 79.3(b)(1).

⁵ *2023 Audio Description Order*, 38 FCC Rcd at 9779, para. 10.

10. Augusta-Aiken

Accessible Materials. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice).

For general information about audio description, visit www.fcc.gov/audio-description. For further information regarding this proceeding, contact Diana Sokolow, Policy Division, Media Bureau, 202-418-0588.

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