

Division 18 --- ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEM

An assistive listening system is a system which enables sound signals to be transmitted to persons with hearing impairment without interference from background noise or excessive reverberation

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

In order to obtain the full benefit of attending public performances or taking part in discussions, a person with hearing impairment needs to receive a signal that is amplified in both volume and signal to noise ratio.

Obligatory Design Requirements

77. Assistive Listening System

An assistive listening system (such as an induction loop system or an infrared system) shall be provided in:

- (a) at least one of the public information/service counters, if any, for various categories of buildings as specified in Table 2 in Chapter 2; and
- (b) the hall and auditorium, if any, of such a building.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) An assistive listening system amplifies audible communication, and can be used by persons with hearing aids. It does not interfere with the listening of people with normal hearing.
- (b) The three assistive listening systems commonly used to provide this enhanced level of sound are induction loop, infrared and radio frequency systems. A decision on which system to use will depend on a number of factors, such as the size and use of the space, external interferences and building materials used.
- (c) Special-purpose receivers are required by infrared and radio frequency systems while hearing aids equipped with a T-switch are capable of receiving the signal from an induction loop system. Designers should seek expert advice concerning the most appropriate system for their purposes.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Coverage

The assistive listening system must be available to cover not less than 70% of the floor area of the room or space served by the system. If a system requiring the use of receivers or the like is adopted, a minimum of 2 receivers should be provided. The number of receivers provided must be not less than 1 for every 50 persons (or part thereof).