


Assistive Listening Systems Quick Guide

Choosing an assistive listening system can be overwhelming and confusing, especially in light of emerging technologies like Auracast™ streamed assistive listening (AL)*.

Here are some guidelines to help people with hearing loss hear today.

- Any system must provide clear, intelligible sound, use well-placed microphones, and have minimal sound delays (latency).
- Any proprietary, complex system limited to specific equipment or requiring people to bring additional devices will leave some people out.
- Any system that requires technical know-how, such as downloading and using additional apps on a smartphone, will leave some people out.
- Auracast™ broadcast audio is a new Bluetooth® capability that has the potential to provide an assistive listening system for people with hearing loss.
- Consumers prefer hearing loops. They are the only user-friendly, widely available, non-proprietary assistive listening system used worldwide.

	Hearing Loop	FM	Infrared (IR)	Wi-Fi	Auracast as ALS*
Easy to use	✓				In development
Needs no equipment check-out †	✓				In development
Used at service counters / help points	✓				In development
Used in public transport	✓				In development
Used outdoors	✓	✓		✓	In development
Low overspill	with phased array design		✓		In development
Meets ADA standard 	✓	✓	✓		In development
Does not need a smartphone or app	✓	✓	✓		In development
Susceptible to electromagnetic interference (EMI)	✓	✓ ^{††}	✓ ^{††}	✓ ^{††}	In development
Minimal latency (sound delay)	✓	✓	✓		In development
Available now	✓	✓	✓	✓	In development

International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standard 60118-17 for Auracast intended for hearing aid use is not scheduled to be released until December 2027. See [Auracast Streamed ALS](#) (webpage).

* The full technical name is “Auracast™ Broadcast Audio used as part of an Assistive Listening System (ALS)” and is simply identified as Auracast streamed assistive listening (AL) in this document.

† For telecoil-enabled hearing instruments (hearing aids, cochlear implants, and bone conductive devices).

†† When used with a neckloop.

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