

Assistive Listening Systems Quick Guide

Choosing an assistive listening system can be overwhelming and confusing, especially in light of emerging technologies like Auracast™ broadcast audio used as an Assistive Listening System (ALS).

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.
- Bluetooth® Classic is not designed for large venues; it typically wirelessly connects people to their own personal devices, such as smartphones and TVs.
- 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 smartphone or app	✓	✓	✓		In development
Susceptible to EMI interference	✓	✓ [†]	✓ [†]	✓ [†]	In development
Minimal latency (sound delay)	✓	✓	✓		In development
Available now	✓	✓	✓	✓	In development

Auracast broadcast audio used as an ALS. International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standard 60118-17 is not scheduled to be released until December 2027. Visit www.hearingloop.org/auracast for more information.

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

† When used with a neckloop.