

A Comparison of Present Telecoil Legislation in the U.S.

There are presently 5 states with legislation pertaining to the requirements of hearing aid dispensers with regard to telecoils (t-coils, audio coils). Below, in a draft form, are those regulations but information on changes being contemplated to the laws in New York as of April, 2015.

ARIZONA:

36-1909. Bill of sale; requirements

A. A hearing aid dispenser or dispensing audiologist shall deliver a bill of sale to each person supplied with a hearing aid by the hearing aid dispenser or the dispensing audiologist or at that person's order or direction.

B. A bill of sale shall contain the hearing aid dispenser's or the dispensing audiologist's signature and shall show the address of that person's regular place of practice and the number of that person's license, a description of the make and model of the hearing aid and the amount charged. The bill of sale shall also state the serial number and the condition of the hearing aid as to whether it is new, used or rebuilt.

C. A BILL OF SALE SHALL CONTAIN LANGUAGE THAT VERIFIES THAT THE CLIENT HAS BEEN INFORMED ABOUT AUDIO SWITCH TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BENEFITS SUCH AS INCREASED ACCESS TO TELEPHONES AND ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES. IF THE HEARING DEVICE PURCHASED BY THE CLIENT HAS AUDIO SWITCH TECHNOLOGY, THE CLIENT SHALL BE INFORMED OF THE PROPER USE OF THE TECHNOLOGY. THE CLIENT SHALL BE INFORMED THAT AN AUDIO SWITCH IS ALSO REFERRED TO AS A TELECOIL, TCOIL OR T-SWITCH.

D. A BILL OF SALE SHALL CONTAIN LANGUAGE THAT INFORMS THE CLIENT ABOUT THE ARIZONA TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY SECTION 36-1947 THAT PROVIDES ASSISTIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICES TO RESIDENTS OF THIS STATE WHO HAVE HEARING LOSS. APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR APRIL 16, 2007.

FLORIDA:

FSS 484.0501 (5) (b)

At the time of the initial examination for fitting and sale of a hearing aid, the attending hearing **aid specialist must notify the prospective purchaser or client of the benefits of telecoil, "t" coil, or "t" switch technology**, including increased access to telephones and noninvasive access to assistive listening systems required under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

NEW YORK

Hearing Aid Dispensers Rules and Regulations Title 19 NYCRR, Part 192

192.18(b)(2)

General information about the general use of hearing aids and the advantages and disadvantages of monaural and binaural hearing aid use, including: information of the value of hearing aid use for a prospective purchaser; consumer protection piece - what to be aware of in sales pitches and "hard sell" techniques, such as "giveaways" and sales pitches that minimize the need for medical and audiological exams; basic "how to" use a hearing aid for a new consumer; and **information about the advantages of purchasing and using the telecoil switch (t-switch).**

RHODE ISLAND

STATUTES AND CODES

5-49-3 Receipt required to be furnished to a person supplied with hearing aid.....

(d) The receipt shall contain language that verifies that the client has been informed about the benefits of audio switch technology, including increased access to telephones and assistive listening systems required under the "American with Disabilities Act of 1990", and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The client shall be informed that an audioswitch is also referred to as a telecoil, t-coil or t-switch.

(e) The receipt shall contain language that informs the client about the Rhode Island adaptive telephone equipment loan program committee established by chapter 39-23 that provides assistive communications devices to residents of this state who have hearing loss and about the Rhode Island commission on the deaf and hard of hearing established by chapter 23-1.8 that provides resources related to hearing loss.

UTAH

Utah Administrative Code - Chapter 249 24 58-46a-502,

58-41-17. Requirements for selling hearing aids.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Hearing aid" means a wearable instrument or device designed or offered for the purpose of aiding or compensating for impaired human hearing, including its parts, attachments, or accessories.

(b) "Hearing aid" does not include a device that is surgically implanted in the cochlea or under the skin near the ear.

(2) A person licensed under this chapter who offers to sell a hearing aid to a consumer shall inform the consumer about hearing aids that work with assistive listening systems that are compliant with the ADA Standards for Accessible Design adopted by the United States Department of Justice in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. .

58-46a-502. Additional requirements for practicing as a hearing instrument specialist.....

(4) before providing services or products to a patient:

(a) advise the patient regarding services and products offered to the patient, including the expected results of the services and products;

(b) inform each patient who is being offered a hearing instrument about hearing instruments that work with assistive listening systems that are compliant with the ADA Standards for Accessible Design adopted by the United States Department of Justice in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.; and

(c) obtain written informed consent from the patient regarding offered services, products, and the expected results of the services and products in a form approved by the division in collaboration with the board.....