

ANNEX C

ACCESS Rulemaking: Cabin Announcements Revised Proposal November 18, 2016

Cabin Announcement Task Force

A task force will be formed as an independent entity, with representatives from airlines, other industry stakeholders and disability rights organizations, including National Association of the Deaf, to advance the cause of accessible cabin announcements.¹ The task force will be led by WiFind.org (Peter Lemme).

On or before November 15, 2017, the task force will develop and submit any consensus recommendations on proposed specifications in the following areas:

- (1) text display of pre-recorded announcements on existing aircraft that uses an audio and video pre-recorded announcement machine (PRAM) with a connection to overhead or seatback monitors to convey pre-recorded cabin announcements;
- (2) text display of pre-recorded announcements on a newly delivered aircraft and existing aircraft in order to sunset the use of audio-only PRAMs;
- (3) text display of pre-recorded announcements on passenger-owned devices;
- (4) text display of uplink announcements via ACARS/IP on seatback displays and passenger-owned devices; and
- (5) text display of PA announcements (such as speech-to-text recognition) on seatback displays and passenger-owned devices.

The task force will also identify opportunities and challenges in establishing a standard interface between aircraft network and passenger-owned devices to enable interactive capability such as calling or messaging with a flight attendant. It will evaluate trials and demonstrations to address these problems on or before November 15, 2017.

When establishing consensus recommendations and proposed specifications, the task force will take into account costs to industry and take advantage of any cost-effective options that may be available. To the extent consensus is not reached on any of the aforementioned matters, WaiFind.org will provide DOT a report containing the different views of the stakeholders.

If the task force is making progress but needs to continue its work after November 15, 2017, it shall submit a report of its progress to DOT on or before November 15, 2017 and indicate a revised target date for completion of its work.

DOT will review any performance criteria that are developed, consensus recommendations provided, or report prepared by this task force for possible inclusion in a new rulemaking.

¹ An announcement is defined as a message that is conveyed by the airline to passengers in order to convey information (not entertainment) relating to safety or otherwise.