

June 17, 2005

IMPORTANT---ACUTA ALERT: FCC Reminds Colleges and Universities to Appoint a Contact for Disabilities Complaints

On June 15, 2005, the FCC distributed a public notice reminding telecom equipment manufacturers and service providers (including colleges and universities who are viewed by the FCC as aggregators of telecommunications services) of their obligations under Section 255 of the Communications Act of 1934. These obligations include the requirement to name an agent to receive complaints regarding the accessibility of their equipment and services for people with disabilities.

ACUTA previously informed members about this requirement in Alerts dated February 2000 and February 2002, available on the ACUTA web site at <http://www.acuta.org/relation/downloadfile.cfm?docnum=237> and <http://www.acuta.org/?822>. We suggest that you review these documents, as they contain a summary of the Section 255 rules and how they apply to colleges and universities. (A password is required to access this information. To request an ACUTA Web account or to check and see if you already have one, go to: <http://www.acuta.org/myacuta>. Please contact Aaron Fuehrer, ACUTA Computer Services Manager, at afuehrer@acuta.org if you need assistance obtaining a password.)

It has been several years since many universities filed their contact information with the FCC, and it may be out of date. A list of contacts for colleges and universities is posted at http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro/section255_colleges.html. The Commission asks that you check this information for accuracy. If the information is not accurate, or if your institution is not listed, please e-mail the correct information to Section255_POC@fcc.gov. They will need a name or department designation, business address, telephone number and, if available, TTY number, fax number, and e-mail address.

ACUTA Legislative/Regulatory Affairs Committee

Following is the full text of the FCC Notice:

THE CONSUMER & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS BUREAU REMINDS
TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
SERVICE PROVIDERS OF OBLIGATION TO DESIGNATE AGENT FOR COMPLAINTS
RECEIVED BY THE FCC

The purpose of this Public Notice is to remind telecommunications equipment manufacturers and telecommunications service providers subject to Section 255 of the Communications Act of 1934 of their obligation to designate an agent for service of informal and formal complaints received by the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission"). The valid control number for compliance with the designation of points of contact information contained in these sections is 3060-0833.

On September 29, 1999, the Commission released a Report and Order and Further Notice of Inquiry (Report and Order) that adopted regulations implementing Section 255, which requires telecommunications equipment manufacturers and service providers to ensure that their equipment and services are accessible to persons with disabilities, to the extent that it is readily achievable to do so. The regulations require, in part, that equipment manufacturers and service providers covered by Section 255 designate an agent for service of informal and formal complaints received by the Commission. The designation shall include a name or department

designation, business address, telephone number, and, if available, TTY number, facsimile number, and Internet e-mail address.

This designation or updated designation information may be sent to the Commission via e-mail to Section255_POC@fcc.gov or mail 1 copy only to: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20554, Attention: Arlene Alexander, Room CY-C418.

Contact information for Section 255 telecommunications equipment manufacturers is posted on the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau's website at http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro/section255_manu.html; contact information for telecommunications service providers is posted at http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro/service_providers.html; and contact information for affected colleges and universities is posted at http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro/section255_colleges.html. The Commission asks that you check this information for accuracy. If the information is not accurate, current, or if it is non-existent, please e-mail the correct information to Section255_POC@fcc.gov.

The full text of this document and filings will be available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-A257, Washington, D.C. 20554. These documents may also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc. (BCPI), Portals II, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-B402, Washington, D.C. 20554. Customers may contact BCPI, Inc. at their website: www.bcpiweb.com or call 1-800-378-3160. Filings may also be viewed on the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau's, Disability Rights Office homepage at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro>.

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (TTY). This Public Notice can also be downloaded in Word and PDF formats at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro/section255.html>.

For further information regarding this Public Notice, contact Arlene Alexander, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, Disability Rights Office (202) 418-0581 (voice), (202) 418-0183 (TTY), or e-mail Arlene.Alexander@fcc.gov.