



Best Practices for Hearing Loop Installation

Hire a Knowledgeable and Committed Hearing Loop Installer

It is recommended you choose an installer who has been trained and certified in International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standard verification, has technical support from the supplier and is legally allowed to carry out the installation in your geographic area. Some states require additional licensing. Committed hearing loop installers have information on their websites about hearing loops and the IEC standard.

Qualifications

- hire a trained and certified hearing loop installer
- ask for references
- verify experience installing hearing loop systems in similar types of buildings
- require on-site measurement for an accurate estimate of installation costs
- require hearing loop systems to meet the IEC 60118-4 hearing loop standard
- require a certificate of conformity to the IEC 60118-4 hearing loop standard
- ensure headphones and receivers are provided according to ADA Standards section 219.3
- verify loop performance with a hearing aid user familiar with hearing loops
- ensure proper integration with existing or new audio video
- provide signage
- arrange staff training
- perform periodic maintenance

Three companies offer hearing loop training and certification: Contacta, Inc., Listen Technologies, and Williams Sound.

Hearing Loop On-Site Testing

Hearing loop systems are venue-specific and usually require an on-site visit to provide an accurate estimate of your installation cost. Although some designs can be modeled on a computer, computer simulation cannot determine if magnetic background noise is present. While a computer design can be a starting point, the loop should never be installed purely based on the simulation. Your installer should be able to explain the on-site test results and what type of loop (e.g., perimeter, figure-8, or phased array) will be needed in your facility to meet the IEC standard and what is involved to aesthetically hide the loop wire.

Buildings present many variables with regard to design and installation due to metal in floors and ceilings. Occasionally a building might have electrical interference. Magnetic background