

To: [sharontoji@me.com](mailto:sharontoji@me.com)

Subject: I support the IEC standard 60118-4

As a consumer and hearing loop advocate with the Hearing Loss Association of America I fully support the adoption of the IEC 60118-4 Hearing Loop standard by ANSI 117.1 which is the only hearing loop standard in the world.

IEC 60118-4 – provides the hearing device users (hearing aids or cochlear implants) users with a magnetic signal from the installed hearing loop that is:

1. Loud enough (a field with peaks of 400mA/m and an average of 100mA/m),
2. Offers even coverage in the seated area of the venue (+/-3dB measured with a 1000Hz signal)
3. Sounds clear because the frequency response is specified to be 100-5000Hz
4. Is installed in an environment free of EMI (eliminating the annoying buzz in the background)

Without a standard for hearing loops, loops will be installed haphazardly and may or may not be compatible to the existing ANSI standard (the SPLITS and SPLIV) tests for telecoils in hearing aids. Please note that the SPLIV telecoil test was recently voted out of the Annex and back into main body of the ANSI hearing aid standard by the ANSI hearing aid committee, a change that awaits FDA approval.

It is my understanding that, currently, the ADA does not recommend a technical standard for hearing loops. In my opinion, this is an important oversight that deserves correcting for the sake of the hearing loop users, namely the hearing impaired. All hearing device users, be they live in the USA, Europe or Australia, use hearing devices that are equipped with telecoils that meet or exceed the Nordic Telecoil test, and in the USA the SPLITS (and soon the SPLIV) tests.

On a personal note, a hearing loop that is installed according to the IEC 60118-4 standard provides a user with access to the spoken word with a clarity that has brought many users of hearing aids and CIs to tears of joy including my hearing aid using mother who resides in the Netherlands. I cannot think of one reason why ANSI 117-would not adopt the IEC standard. To not adopt it would be a gross disservice to the needs of people who go through life using hearing aids and or cochlear implants.

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HAAA Hearing Loop Advocate

[www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

- Wisconsin Audiologist of the Year – 2011
- Larry Mauldin Award - 2011
- HAAA Technology Access Award

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