



## REQUIREMENTS FOR INBUILT AMPLIFICATION SYSTEMS

The National Construction Codes of Australia (NCC – formerly called the Building Codes of Australia - BCA) and the Access to Premises Standards requires hearing augmentation to be installed in public buildings where there is an inbuilt amplification system.

### **DP9**

An Inbuilt communication system for entry, information, entertainment, or for the provision of a service, must be suitable for occupants who are deaf or hearing impaired.

The following is the introduction to the “Deemed to Satisfy” requirements of DP9:

### **D3.7**

A hearing augmentation system must be provided where an inbuilt amplification system, other than one used only for emergency warning, is installed...

### **So what is meant by ‘inbuilt amplification’?**

- Inbuilt means it is permanently installed
- A TV mounted on a wall is therefore permanently installed; a portable PA is not.
- Amplification means it has an amplifier
- Any device that produces sound via a speaker has an amplifier.
- Consequently, any installed audio system, whether it is TV, AV system, etc, has inbuilt amplification

### **The moral issue**

It is legally required for public buildings with an inbuilt amplification system to provide a hearing augmentation system.

However, even apart from the legal requirement, it is the strong value of this company that people with a hearing loss deserve to understand and enjoy what is being heard, understood and enjoyed by others.

### **Examples**

***The following are examples of devices with inbuilt amplification, so that hearing augmentation is required:***

- Speakers on the wall
- An installed audio visual (AV) system
- An installed Public Address (PA) or sound system
- A television that is mounted on the wall, or connected to a permanent antenna
- A television that is not wall mounted, but is too large to reasonably be considered portable (state Fair Trading laws have some guidance)
- A music system
- A paging system
- An emergency warning system that is also used for paging, background music or any other added purpose.

***The following are examples of devices without inbuilt amplification:***

- A portable sound system
- A television on a trolley that is wheeled into place as needed.
- A whiteboard (with speakers) on wheels

### **References:**

**NCC** may be downloaded at no charge from [ncc.abcb.gov.au](http://ncc.abcb.gov.au)

## FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions, email Andrew Stewart: Managing Director of Hearing Connections at [andrew@hearconnect.com.au](mailto:andrew@hearconnect.com.au)

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### About the Author

Andrew Stewart is qualified in electronics and has been leading research into hearing augmentation systems for over 30 years – including designing, installing, testing and commissioning of Hearing Augmentation Systems. He and his team have conducted their own research of comparison methodologies of installing hearing loop systems and designed and constructed test equipment. He's been involved in installations at Sydney Opera House, First Class Qantas Club Singapore, art galleries, museums, theatres and many others.

Andrew was a key leader in the development of AS 1428.5 - 2010, the authoritative document on Hearing Augmentation in Australia. He is also a life member of Deafness Forum of Australia (the peak body for hearing impaired people in Australia) and continues to represent them, as he has on many committees for over 20 years. Andrew has been hearing impaired all his life, with a progressive loss, and now wears two cochlear implants. He has 9 other family members who wear hearing aids and/or cochlear implants.

### Why choose Hearing Connections

**Hearing Connections is built on experience of Andrew Stewart, who:**

- Has been **wearing hearing aids** since age 7, and now wears two cochlear implants.
- Knows both sides of the story – the **lived experience**, and the **electronics qualifications**.
- Has been **specialising** in Hearing Augmentation Systems for over 33 years.
- Was **instrumental** in the writing of the definitive Australian Standard **AS 1428.5**.
- Has conducted **research and development** of Hearing Augmentation systems for improved outcomes.
- Has over **33 years of design, installation and commissioning** of Hearing Augmentation systems (loop systems, FM systems, sound field systems and public address systems) for a range of public access buildings, from small halls to significant buildings and venues, including Sydney Opera House and airports.
- **Lectures** in Hearing Augmentation for building professionals.
- Provides **training** in Hearing Augmentation for Access Consultants, Building certifiers and surveyors, and architects.
- Over 20 years of **advocating** for the needs of deaf and hearing impaired people.
- Is a **life member** of Deafness Forum of Australia.
- Has won **numerous awards** for service in advocating for the needs of deaf and hearing impaired people.

### Legal

This document is not a legal interpretation of the NCC. It is the opinion of the principal of this company and is based on more than 30 years of experience with hearing augmentation. He himself is hearing impaired. The information provided is general advice only and does not take into account your building site objectives, building site design and or building materials used or other relevant factors and cannot be relied upon for your specific needs.

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