

Port Authority of NY/NJ Updates Policy to Require Hearing Loops in Airports

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Hearing loops at airline gates and information counters to assist travelers wearing hearing aids will be required at the three New York Area airports under new accessibility policy of the Port Authority of New York - New Jersey. The policy applies to new construction and renovations at the airports and at bus, rail and ferry facilities under PANY/NJ management.

The loops will be required to meet the IEC-60118-4 standard compliant hearing loops at new airport passenger gates and at information counters in new transportation facilities. The only exception to the requirement is if installation is technically infeasible or requires compromising the structural integrity of an existing floor system.

The hearing loop provision is contained in section 2.20 (pp. 73, 74) of a recently released 110-page policy document [Port Authority's Supplemental Accessibility Requirements](#),

Download the full update >> and note the discussion of hearing loop systems within these sections:

1. Appendix A – A2.20 (Pgs. 96 and 97). This is a “plain English” explanation of the requirement.
2. Appendix B – Par. B8 (Pgs. 104-105). This Appendix contains additional non-binding recommendations. We ask designers and builders to consider adding hearing loops even where not required under Section 2.20 (i.e., at ticketing or customer service counters).

The provisions go into full effect in August, 2021.