

BEST PRACTICES GUIDE INDUCTION LOOP SYSTEMS

ADVERTISE INDUCTION LOOP AVAILABILITY

Venue owners must post easy-to-read induction loop availability signage (Image A) in readily visible locations, including entrances to your venue, to alert telecoil (T-coil) hearing aid users to the induction loop system deployed in your venue.

Also install the included illuminated loop monitor sign (Image B) from your system in a readily visible location to alert users and staff as to the functioning status of the loop system. These signs can save time and frustration for users trying to use the induction loop system, and save the need for possibly unnecessary service calls.



- A. Proper ADA signage for induction loop availability has a T in the lower right-hand corner.
- B. Illuminated loop monitor sign. Green shows operational status. Red shows a system fault.

EDUCATE YOUR STAFF:

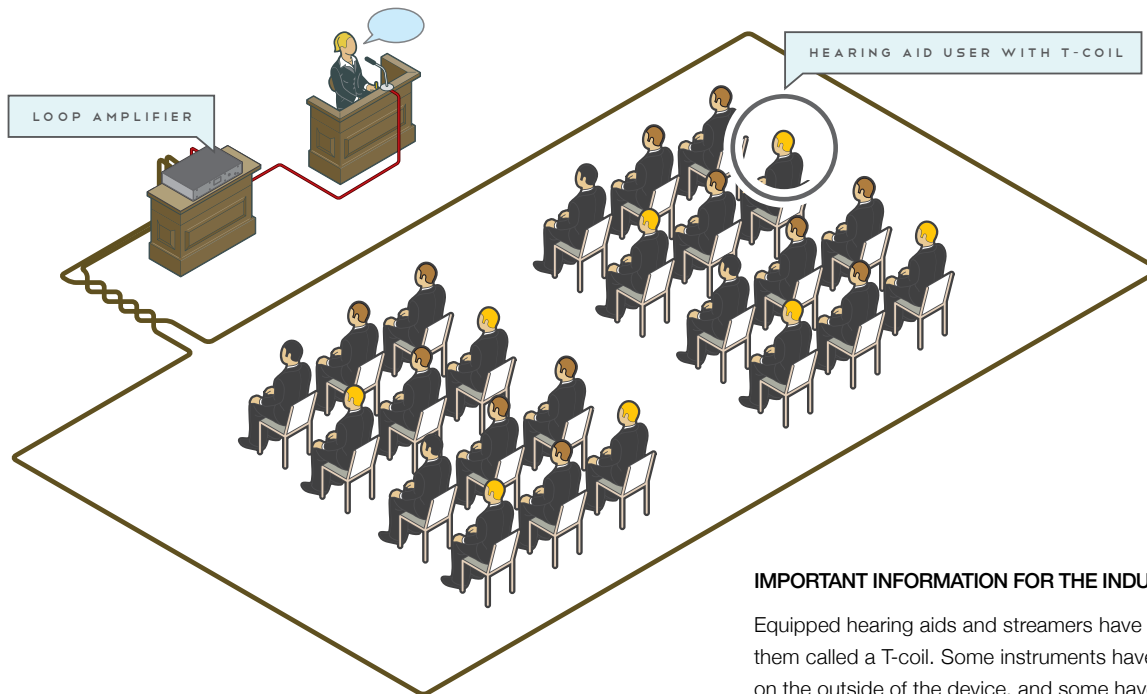
As a venue owner, it is important to instruct your staff about the availability of the induction loop system and basically how it functions. They should also be able to answer basic questions about how to use it and who can use it, including the use of loop receiver belt packs and earphones. Hearing aid users will want to know how to connect. Those who do not have t-coil equipped hearing aids will want to know how get a belt pack and earphones so they can listen as well.

Without trained staff, end users may find your service very difficult to use and become frustrated. A belt pack, for example, allows staff to monitor the loop system just as a patron would. It is important that staff check these systems for correct operation on a regular basis. This is also where the illuminated loop monitor sign can help.

WHAT ARE INDUCTION LOOPS?

An audio frequency induction loop system (AFILS) is used to enhance communication for hearing aid wearers. It provides a magnetic signal that is picked up by a hearing aid when that hearing aid is set to its “T”, or T-coil, setting. The technology has been around for many years and is relatively straightforward to use. The key to system success is education – providing a basic understanding of the technology and taking time to become informed about user needs.





HOW DOES AN INDUCTION LOOP WORK?

1. A sound source — such as a voice, TV or other audio system — is captured using a microphone or via a line-out connection.
2. The sound signal is then connected to an induction loop amplifier. This generates a current to pass the signal to an induction loop, usually made of copper tape or wire.
3. The copper wire induction loop (usually) surrounds the area where the listening audience is located and produces a magnetic field. In some cases, the loop system may be built into the floor, a counter or reception desk.
4. The magnetic field is picked up by the T-coil inside the hearing aid, cochlear implant and/or induction loop receiver of an audience member who has difficulty hearing.
5. The hearing aid tailors the sound to the specific needs of the individual. Sound is delivered directly into the ear canal, without background noise and with the full spectrum of sound frequencies required for intelligibility.

WHY PROVIDE AN INDUCTION LOOP SYSTEM?

Induction loops enhance the user experience for patrons who visit your venue. Providing induction loops will raise customer experience levels, which may increase/open new revenue streams. Other benefits could include competitive advantage, increased customer loyalty, brand awareness and positive publicity. Without making these changes you may be discriminating against disabled people, and you could face legal action. More importantly, induction loops are ADA compliant, providing equal access in public facilities.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE INDUCTION LOOP END USER

Equipped hearing aids and streamers have a magnetic coil inside them called a T-coil. Some instruments have a physical T-coil switch on the outside of the device, and some have a remote control to select or deselect this setting. If your device has a T-Coil, select the “T” position. The induction loop signal (audio you desire to hear) will then be present in the device.

There are several devices that can benefit from using an induction loop system. Not all hearing aids come with T-coils. You are responsible for your own equipment and should be able to activate the T-coil switch, if equipped. Please see your audiologist if you have any questions about how to interface your hearing device with an induction loop system. If you do not have a hearing aid or device, ask for an induction loop receiver (belt pack with earphones) at the venue’s information desk. You will then receive audio support directly to your seat.

HOW INDUCTION LOOPS BENEFIT END USERS

1. They can use equipment they already own. They already have made the investment, and do not have to remove their hearing aid to wear headphones (if their hearing aid has a T-coil).
2. They receive the audio the way their own audiologist has custom programmed their device for them, offering the best end user experience.
3. They comprehend more of what is being said, and participate in a relevant way to the experience. They can function normally inside the venue, and have equal access to information/communication while using the system.

From houses of worship to university lecture halls to business conferences, induction loop technology ensures every listener in attendance -- including those using T-coil equipped hearing aids -- can hear your message clearly. Induction loop systems provide a more inclusive experience for all -- complete audio solutions that help increase intelligibility, enhance user experience, and readily meet your facility’s needs for global disability legislation compliance.