

OTC Draft Regulation

FDA Framework

- FDA is amending and proposing to establish a new regulatory framework as it relates to hearing aids.
- Two categories of Categories of Hearing Aids
 - Prescription Hearing Aids
 - OTC Hearing Aids
 - Device type classifications would not be changed
- PSAP Draft Regulations were also released with the OTC Regulation



[This Photo](#)

author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

FDA's Proposal | What FDA is Proposing

FDA is proposing to establish OTC hearing aid category plus make all other hearing aids "prescription devices."

OTC Hearing Aids

FDA is proposing to establish regulatory controls, that if met, would allow Class I and Class II hearing aids to be sold OTC:

- OTC devices intended for individuals with perceived mild-to-moderate hearing loss.
- Subject to technical requirements, performance criteria, and labeling rules.
- "Self-fitting" OTC devices subject to 510(k) and clinical studies.
- Licensed hearing care professionals do not need to be involved but are permitted to sell, dispense, and support OTC hearing aids.

Prescription Hearing Aids

FDA is proposing to treat non-OTC hearing aids as "prescription hearing aids" that would need to be prescribed by hearing care professional licensed under state law.

- Today, hearing aids are treated as "restricted" medical devices that are subject to conditions of sale, use, and distribution.
- This realignment would not affect the device class or premarket notification exemption status of any existing device.
- FDA is proposing to allow licensed hearing care professionals, including hearing aid specialists, to prescribe hearing aids.

PSAP Guidance

FDA also released new PSAP guidance:

- FDA is proposing to maintain the same distinction between "hearing aids" and "PSAPs" based on intended use (hearing aids are intended to compensate for hearing loss whereas PSAPs are intended to amplify sounds for persons with normal hearing).
- FDA will not treat "PSAPs" as medical devices. However, if PSAPs are advertised in a way that explicitly or implicitly claims the product is intended to treat hearing loss or is an alternative to a hearing aid, it will be treated as a "medical device" and FDA will enforce its proposed regulation.

Associations Consensus Paper Recommendations

REGULATORY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OTC
HEARING AIDS: SAFETY & EFFECTIVENESS

CONSENSUS PAPER FROM HEARING CARE ASSOCIATIONS

August 2018

August 14th
Major Milestone:
Consensus Paper
Released



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

5 Key Points

20

- 1. Recommendation 1:** FDA to establish **product requirements** appropriate for OTC hearing devices targeting mild-to-moderate hearing impairment. In particular, the Working Group recommends that: a) the **2 cc coupler HFA full on gain, as measured at an input level of 50 dB SPL per ANSI S3.22-2014, is 25 dB or lower**; and b) **the peak (or maximum) 2 cc coupler OSPL90, per ANSI S3.22-2014, is not greater than 110 dB SPL**, in combination with input compression and volume control. In addition, the use of instant-fit ear-tips is encouraged.
- 2. Recommendation 2:** FDA to define concise, **outside-of-the-box labeling** appropriate for medical devices sold over-the-counter. This should include **recognition of intended use / usage** and an important notice for the prospective users about **hearing loss being a medical condition best addressed in consultation with a licensed professional**.
- 3. Recommendation 3:** FDA to define comprehensive, **inside-the-box labeling** including a strong warning that the device is not intended for children under the age of 18. Additionally, inside-the-box should include a User Instructional Manual with direction to the consumer on how to identify lack of benefit and what to do.

5 Key Points (con't)

21

4. Recommendation 4: FDA to name the new category as “*Self-Fit Over-the-Counter Hearing Devices*” and to maintain for such category the same risk classification as air conduction hearing aids – i.e. Class I for non-wireless devices and Class II (exempt) for wireless OTC hearing devices. Additionally, the Working Group strongly recommends that any 510(k) exemptions be limited to devices that have received a first-time FDA marketing authorization (a 510(k) clearance). The initial OTC air conduction hearing devices should be required to undergo the 510(k) processes.
5. Recommendation 5: FDA, in coordination with the FTC, to establish strong consumer protection laws (e.g. return and refund policies, unsubstantiated and false claims, ...) and put in place adequate processes and resources to enforce them, especially in the first years of introduction of the new category.

Minimum Product Specifications

Maximum OSPL90:
 ≤ 110 dB SPL

HFA-FOG: ≤ 25 dB

Frequency
Response: Lower
250 Hz to equal or
great than 5 kHz

Response Smooth:
 ≥ 12 dB/ octave
rule

EIN: ≤ 30 dB
Maximum

Harmonic
Distortion: Current
ANSI
recommendations

Latency: Less than
15msec

Volume Control:
Yes

Compression: Input
compression
(minimum)

Battery: Type _____
disposable or
rechargeable

Battery Life: _____
current drain or
_____Hours

RF Immunity: M2/T2
(if available)

FDA's Proposal | OTC Proposal vs. Consensus Recommendations

	FDA Proposal	Consensus Recommendation
<p>1</p> <p>Product Requirements</p> <p>Max Output</p> <p>Gain limit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peak output of 115 dB SPL; or If device incorporates input-controlled compression and user-adjustable volume control, peak output of 120 dB SPL. No gain limitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peak output of 110 dB SPL measured at 2 cc coupler OSPL90, per ANSI S3.22-2014. HFA full on gain, at an input level of 50 dB SPL, is 25 dB or lower.
<p>2</p> <p>Outside the box labelling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed outside-of-the-box labeling includes recognition of intended use, device usage, and a notice to prospective users about HL being a medical condition best addressed in consultation with a licensed professional. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define concise, outside-of-the-box labeling appropriate for mild-to-moderate HL. This should include recognition of intended use, device usage, and a notice to prospective users about HL being a medical condition best addressed in consultation with a licensed professional.
<p>3</p> <p>Inside the box labelling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed inside-the-box labeling includes a strong warning that the device is not intended for children under the age of 18, strong warnings on how to use device, identify lack of benefit, when to consult a professional, and how to report adverse events to the FDA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define comprehensive, inside-the-box labeling including a strong warning that the device is not intended for children under the age of 18. Additionally, inside-the-box should include a User Instructional Manual with direction to the consumer on how to identify lack of benefit and what to do.
<p>4</p> <p>Risk classification</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintains same risk classification as air-conduction hearing aids (Class I) and wireless air-conduction hearing aids (Class II). Requires new "self-fitting" OTC devices to obtain 510(k) premarket clearance and complete clinical study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain same risk classification as air-conduction hearing aids (Class I) and wireless air-conduction hearing aids (Class II). Require new OTC devices to obtain 510(k) premarket clearance.
<p>5</p> <p>Consumer protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes strong consumer protections, including allowing existing state return/refund policies to apply to OTC hearing aids. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish strong consumer protection laws (e.g. return and refund policies, unsubstantiated and false claims, ...) and put in place adequate processes and resources to enforce them..

FDA OTC Regulation

- ▶ The draft regulation utilized the ANSI/CTA 2051 standard proposed by the Consumer Technology Association 2017 which was developed for PSAP's
- ▶ The Associations Consensus Paper was not referenced in the regulation
- ▶ There was not a standard or definition for Mild or Moderate hearing loss noted
- ▶ Regulations noted in this regulation preempts State regulations regarding hearing aids

FDA's Proposed OTC Regulation | Timeline and What to Expect

Status of FDA's Regulatory Process

Steps of FDA's Regulatory Process		Expected Timing
NPRM	FDA Publishes Draft Regulation	Oct. 20
Public Comment	Public Comment Period Ends <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90-day public comment period 	Jan. 18, 2022
Final Regulation	FDA Publishes Final Regulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FDA allowed up to 180 days to publish final regulation after public comment ends. 	July 2022
Effective Date	Final Regulation Takes Effect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final regulation takes effect 60 days after publication 	September 2022
Market Opens	First Device on the Market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 510(k) exempt devices Devices subject to 510(k) + clinical study (i.e. new self-fitting OTC hearing aids) 	Sep '22-Apr '23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sep. '22 Feb-Apr '23

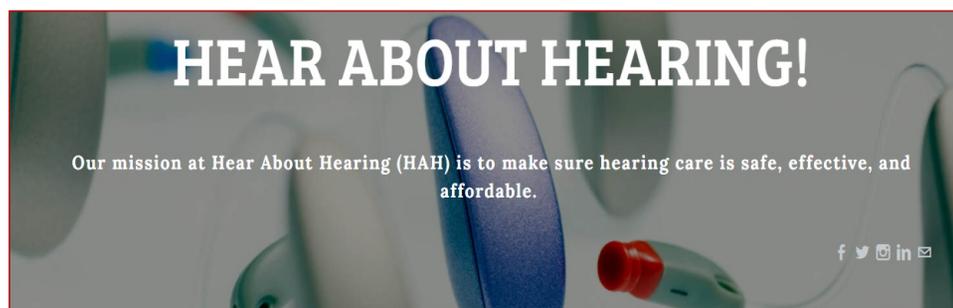
FDA's Public Comment Period

Recommend submit written comments to the FDA urging adoption of the consensus policy recommendations developed ADA, AAA, ASHA and IHS to ensure OTC devices are "safe and effective."



Public Comment Period |

Hear About Hearing is a non-partisan site which enables individuals to submit comments directly to the FDA during the public comment period through the website integrating VoterVoice comment writing functionality.



HAH Action Alert

Tell the Biden administration:

FDA MUST Prioritize Safety and Effectiveness for Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids!

[SUBMIT COMMENT](#)

Tell FDA: Promote Safety and Effectiveness for OTC Hearing Aids

On Wednesday, October 20, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) formally published its long-awaited proposed over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aid regulation.

The public comment period is now open for 90 days. Hear About Hearing strongly encourages all stakeholders in the hearing care community to call on the FDA to ensure that OTC hearing aids are safe and effective. Your voice will play a vital role in shaping the direction of this critically-important rulemaking.

The FDA's proposed regulation would limit the sale of OTC hearing aids to adults with perceived mild-to-moderate hearing loss without the need to first see a trained hearing care professional or undergo a medical evaluation. **However, absent proper safeguards in place, consumers may ultimately put themselves at an increased risk of causing hearing damage, particularly in the case of individuals who use these devices incorrectly or who should not have used them at all.**

Importantly, in requiring the FDA to create the OTC hearing aid category, Congress also made clear that the FDA must ensure these devices are safe and effective. But because trained hearing care professionals do not need to be involved to assist consumers in purchasing an OTC hearing aid, these new devices have the potential to create widespread consumer confusion or, worse yet, result in increased hearing loss if these devices are used incorrectly. Simply put, the need to ensure safety and effectiveness for OTC hearing aids cannot be understated.

In line with the consensus recommendations of the American Academy of Audiology (AAA), Academy of Doctors of Audiology (ADA), American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA), and International Hearing Society (IHS), **the FDA MUST fix this rulemaking so that OTC hearing aids have a limit of 110 dB output and 25 dB gain, thus protecting patients from further damaging their hearing.**

Compose Your Message

- Regulations.gov Document - FDA-2021-N-0555-0001 (-)
- FDA-2021-N-0555-0001

Please review the message below and be sure to personalize it as you see fit.

Subject

Promote Safety and Effectiveness for OTC Hea

Message Body

Hearing Society (IHS). These are evidence-based recommendations that would ensure that OTC hearing aids cannot be used in a manner that could do further damage to a patient's hearing.

Enter Your Info

Your Information

Prefix * First Name * Last Name *

Email *

Home Information

Street Address *

ZIP Code * Enter Zip for City and State

Send me email alerts

Remember me

[Send Message](#)

Powered by votervoice
A ThinkClick Company



www.hearabouthearing.org



Panel Discussion