

## Induction Loop Legislation Basic Guide

Induction loop systems are used to assist the hearing impaired by transmitting amplified sound, i.e., music, speech, etc, to hearing aids.

Demand for them has increased due to new legislation aimed at preventing discrimination against disabled people. This document provides a brief overview of legislation, standards and schemes, which refer to induction loop systems and their installation.



### DDA - Disability Discrimination Act (1995)

The aim of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) is to stop discrimination against disabled people including the hearing impaired. The Act was extended in September 2002 to cover education in schools and colleges and was strengthened further in October 2004 as the Disability Rights Commission's (DRC) new Code of Practice came into effect. Under the Act, all UK service providers, i.e., companies or organisations offering goods, facilities or services to the general public, must make 'reasonable' adjustments to ensure they do not unlawfully discriminate against disabled people. Employers must also take measures to ensure that existing and potential employees are not disadvantaged in the workplace.

Examples of 'reasonable adjustments' include the provision of auxiliary aids, such as induction loop systems, to enable a deaf or hard of hearing person to access goods, facilities or services where it is impossible or unreasonably difficult for them to do so. From 1st October 2004, permanent adjustments must be made and organisations that fail to make adequate provision for the disabled could face prosecution. Some examples of service providers covered under the Act are:

Public utility companies, such as gas, electricity and water suppliers  
Leisure centres, football stadia, national parks and health clubs  
Bus and railway stations, airports and travel agents  
Shops, hairdressers, post offices, banks and building societies  
Hotels, restaurants, cinemas, theatres and pubs  
Hospitals, waiting rooms and clinics  
Solicitors' offices, courts, churches and mosques

Further info : [www.drc-gb.org](http://www.drc-gb.org)

### BS8300 (2002)

British Standard BS8300 is the code of practice for the design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people. The standard recommends that "a hearing enhancement system, using induction loop, infra-red or radio transmission, should be installed in rooms and spaces used for meetings, lectures, classes, performances, spectator sports or films, and used at service and reception counters where the background noise level is high or where glazed screens are used" (9.3.2). It pinpoints the following areas for consideration: seated waiting areas; ticket sales and information points; fitness suites and exercise studios; churches; crematoria and cemetery chapels, educational, cultural and scientific buildings. Further info : [www.bsi-global.com](http://www.bsi-global.com)

All information on this datasheet is given in good faith. Please note, full copies of the Standards, Acts and Schemes referred to can be purchased or viewed in their entirety at websites listed at the end of each section.