



Regulatory Overview: Closed Captioning (CC) of Video Programming Delivered via Internet Protocol (IP)

Suzy Rosen Singleton, Chief, Disability Rights Office
Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau
Federal Communications Commission

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Introduction to IP CC Requirements

- Full-length programming that has been shown captioned on television in the United States must be captioned when delivered via Internet Protocol. 47 CFR § 79.4.
- The captioning rules do not apply to full-length programming that is only streamed online.
- The IP captions must be at least the same quality as the television captions provided for the same programming.
- Online consumer-generated programming generally is not required to be captioned.



Captioning of IP Video Clips

- Video clips of captioned full-length covered programming must be captioned if posted on the video programming distributors' own websites or applications.
- This rule does not apply to clips posted on third-party websites or apps.
- This rule includes clips that are:
 - “straight lift” clips
 - “montage” clips
 - live and near-live clips, with a grace period for posting the captioned version (12 hours & 8 hours delay, respectively)



Captioning of Covered Archived IP Video Programming

Within 15 days, distributors must add captions to full-length video programming already shown on the Internet that is later shown on television with captions.



Activating and Customizing Captioning Settings

Covered providers must include a simple and easy-to-use method for activating closed captioning that is “reasonably comparable to a button, key or icon.” 47 CFR § 79.109.

Covered providers must make the following features customizable by the viewer: presentation, character color, character opacity, character size, eight font choices, background color and opacity, character edge attributes, captioning window color, language, and preview and setting retention. 47 CFR § 79.103(c).



Your Resources

For more information, visit www.fcc.gov/accessibility

Have specific questions?

Contact the Federal Communications Commission at:

Disability Rights Office,

Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau

DRO@fcc.gov

202-418-2517 (voice)

844-432-2275 (videophone)

