



## **FCC REQUIREMENTS AT A GLANCE**

### **Closed captioning for Spanish and English Programming**

Most English and Spanish programming must be captioned, with some exceptions for late night programming (between 2:00 and 6:00 am), new networks, networks with low revenues, and programs under 10 minutes in length.

All new bilingual English and Spanish-language programming must be captioned, as well as all “on demand” content. Even though the primary audio may be in English, if there are SAP channels carrying Spanish audio, the program must also be captioned in Spanish. Additionally, 75% of pre-2014 bilingual English-Spanish programming must be closed captioned in their respective languages.

### **Audio Description**

Audio Description (also called Video Description) provides narration of the visual elements of a program. It is accessible through the secondary audio feature of most TVs and is designed to provide access to blind and low vision viewers.

The top five non-broadcast networks and local network affiliates in the top 60 markets must provide 87.5 hours per quarter of audio description, 50 hours of which must be prime time and/or children's programming, and 37.5 hours may be any type of programming shown between 6:00 a.m. and midnight.

Subscription TV systems (offered over cable, satellite or the telephone network) with 50,000 or more subscribers must provide 87.5 hours per calendar quarter (about 7 hours per week) of audio-described programming on the top five most-watched non-broadcast networks, currently Discovery, HGTV, History, TBS, and USA,) of which 50 hours must be prime time and/or children's programming and 37.5 hours may be any type of programming shown between 6:00 a.m. and midnight.

### **IP-Delivered Programming**

FCC rules require English and Spanish captioned programs shown on TV in the U.S. to be captioned when made available on the Internet. Full-length videos shown on TV, then the Internet, must have captions.



Internet video clips must be captioned if the associated programming is shown on TV in the U.S. with captions. Up to an 8-hour delay is permitted in posting a captioned clip after it has been shown on TV.