

**APPENDIX L**  
***Specific Instructions for Cable System Operators***

- The timeframe for wired cable systems to comply with the EAS requirements has been changed from the previous July 1, 1997 date. Wired cable systems that serve 10,000 or more subscribers must install EAS equipment and provide EAS audio and video messages on all channels by December 31, 1998.
- Wired cable systems that serve 5,000 or more but fewer than 10,000 subscribers must install EAS equipment and provide EAS audio and video messages on all channels by October 1, 2002.
- Those wired cable systems serving fewer than 5,000 subscribers must either provide the national level EAS message on all programmed channels -- including the required testing -- or install EAS equipment and provide a video interrupt and audio alert on all programmed channels and EAS video and audio messages on at least one programmed channel by October 1, 2002.
- Wireless cable systems are required to participate in the EAS on the same basis as wired cable systems. Satellite Master Antenna Television (SMATV) and Open Video Systems (OVS) are not required to participate in the EAS at this time.

**I. LOCAL FRANCHISING AGREEMENTS AND HEARING IMPAIRED RULES**

In addition, the Commission had decided that the requirements of local franchise agreements for special warning systems for cable systems will not be preempted by the EAS as long as they do not conflict with EAS requirements under the FCC rules. The cable television option of providing separate in-home alerting devices for the hearing impaired in lieu of audio and video emergency messages on all channels has been eliminated due to lack of technologically feasible devices available for this option.

For a more detailed explanation of the new requirements, phase-in periods and justification for FCC actions please consult the Report and Order itself.