



ATIS-0700036.v003

ATIS Standard on -

**Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) 3.0 Mobile Device Behavior  
(MDB) Specification**



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# **Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) 3.0 Mobile Device Behavior (MDB) Specification**

**Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions**

Approved October 20, 2021

## **Abstract**

This specification defines a common set of requirements for GSM, UMTS, LTE, and 5G based mobile devices. Implementation of the requirements contained within this specification is mobile device manufacturer dependent.

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## Foreword

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The Alliance for Telecommunication Industry Solutions (ATIS) serves the public through improved understanding between carriers, customers, and manufacturers. The Wireless Technologies and Systems Committee (WTSC) develops and recommends standards and technical reports related to wireless and/or mobile services and systems, including service descriptions and wireless technologies. WTSC develops and recommends positions on related subjects under consideration in other North American, regional, and international standards bodies.

The mandatory requirements are designated by the word shall and recommendations by the word should. Where both a mandatory requirement and a recommendation are specified for the same criterion, the recommendation represents a goal currently identifiable as having distinct compatibility or performance advantages. The word may denotes an optional capability that could augment the standard. The standard is fully functional without the incorporation of this optional capability.

This ATIS Standard is a revision of ATIS-0700036.

Suggestions for improvement of this document are welcome. They should be sent to the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions, WTSC, 1200 G Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005.

At the time of consensus on this document, WTSC, which was responsible for its development, had the following leadership:

- M. Younge, WTSC Chair (T-Mobile USA)
- D. Zelmer, WTSC Vice Chair (AT&T)
- Terri Brooks, WTSC SN Chair (T-Mobile USA)
- Peter Musgrove, WTSC SN Vice Chair and Technical Editor (AT&T)

The Systems & Networks (SN) subcommittee was responsible for the development of this document.

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## Preface

The authority-to-individual emergency alerting capability to mobile devices was originally called Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS) in the first three Reports and Orders from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). This standard was originally developed based upon the CMAS terminology and CMAS was operational in April 2012. However, in February 2013, the FCC renamed CMAS to Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) with associated updates to the appropriate sections of Part 11 of the 47 CFR. Subsequently, the FCC has issued additional enhancements and rules for this government-to-individual emergency alerting capability to mobile devices and these are identified as modifications to WEA.

Consequently, this specification may use both the term CMAS and the term WEA. These terms should be considered as equivalent terms, with WEA being the preferred term.

This ATIS specification is the WEA 3.0 standard for the WEA 3.0 mobile device behavior and is based upon the WEA enhancements identified in the January 30, 2018, FCC Second Report & Order and Second Order on Reconsideration, FCC 18-4 [Ref 14]. The use of the term WEA in this specification refers to WEA 3.0, unless otherwise specifically indicated. This specification is targeted at participating Commercial Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs) per the FCC definition described in ATIS-0700035, *Wireless Emergency Alert (3.0) Service Description* [Ref 100]. All references to CMSPs in this specification refer to participating CMSPs.

The regulatory background is described in detail in the Service Description in ATIS-0700035 [Ref 100].

## 1 Scope, Purpose, & Application

### 1.1 Scope

One of the objectives of this WEA specification is to define a set of requirements for the behavior of the mobile devices whenever a WEA alert message is received. This specification defines a set of requirements for Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM), Universal Mobile Telecommunication System (UMTS), Long-Term Evolution (LTE), and 5G based mobile devices. Implementation of the requirements contained within this specification is mobile device manufacturer dependent.

Even though the scope of WEA includes paging systems, the behavior of paging devices for WEA alert messages is not contained within this specification.

More information about previous versions of WEA can be found in the WEA 3.0 Service Description [Ref 100].

### 1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this specification is to define the WEA 3.0 set of requirements for GSM, UMTS, LTE, and 5G based mobile devices behavior. This WEA 3.0 mobile device behavior specification is based upon the WEA enhancements identified in the January 2018 FCC Second Report & Order and Second Order on Reconsideration, FCC 18-4 [Ref 14].

Any assumptions, requirements, and principles from ATIS-0700036, *Enhanced Mobile Device Behavior Specification* which are applicable to WEA 3.0 are included in this ATIS specification.