



June 12, 2024

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

RE: DA 24-137 – Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Seeks Comment on Implementation of Multilingual Wireless Emergency Alerts

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau's (Bureau) implementation of multilingual Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA).

The Port of Seattle adopted a Port-wide Language Access Order in 2023 to develop a language access policy and plan that ensures inclusion of non or limited English speakers, including those who are hard of hearing or deaf, in the use of Port services and facilities; and the Port-wide implementation of a plan directing divisions with publicly facing public services to offer language assistance services including translation and/or interpretation.

The Port of Seattle (Port) implemented WEA alerting in 2021 at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA). The Port's concept of operations for WEA is to alert all of King County of a major public safety incident at SEA to keep people safe and to keep the surrounding roadways clear for emergency vehicles to respond and transport patients.

Our initial WEA warning is "Do not approach SEA Airport. Ongoing emergency. Check your airline. Monitor the SEA X (Twitter) page for continued updates at x.com/flySEA." Our downgrade or "all clear" WEA message is "SEA Airport emergency cleared. Safe to approach. Check your airline. Monitor the SEA X (Twitter) page for continued updates at x.com/flySEA." We also have 90-character versions of the messages that do not include the X information and Spanish-translated messages for all four.

To better serve our community and the traveling public, the Port highly supports the Bureau's implementation Wireless Emergency Alert delivery in additional languages and American Sign Language and will implement the option as soon as it's available.

The Port's responses to your specific questions are below.

A. Identifying Alert Types for Templates

The Port of Seattle supports the Bureau's proposed templates. Due to our role as critical transportation infrastructure, the Port is not the alerting authority responsible for issuing these

alert types. However, our stakeholders would benefit from their adoption by the city, county, or state government that is the alerting authority and defer to them on template feedback.

B. Incorporating Event-Specific Information into Fillable Alert Templates

As described above, the Port's WEA concept of operations – while static – would not be served by the alert type templates regardless of the addition of fillable elements.

Our alerting would require additional WEA language message Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) fields like the existing Spanish message fields, where we would add professionally translated messages into our templates.

The ability for the Interoperable Software Systems to use different characters and accent marks will also need to be confirmed.

C. Considerations for American Sign Language

The Port's WEA concept of operations would require a second web link CAP field or the ability to attach a video file to deliver WEA messages in American Sign Language.

D. Supporting Additional Languages

In addition to the 13 languages the Bureau is already planning to require Participating Commercial Mobile Service (CMS) Providers to support, the Port of Seattle recommends (Second Tier for the Port) the addition of Somali, Ukrainian, Amharic, Punjabi, and Japanese and encourages (Third Tier) Cambodian, Laotian, Farsi, Tigrinya, Oromo, and Samoan.

In conclusion, thank you again for the opportunity to share our response to the implementation of multilingual Wireless Emergency Alerts. We look forward to the advancement in language accessibility for these critical safety alerts to better serve the community and traveling public. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any additional details on our comments.

Yours truly,


Matt Breed (Jun 12, 2024 08:23 PDT)

Matt Breed
Chief Information Officer
Port of Seattle


#Port of Seattle

Final Audit Report

2024-06-12

Created:	2024-06-12
By:	Kati Davich (davich.k@portseattle.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA-_7gfrxa7dNpSFgrZ5QVw3NizMbxZUV-

History

-  Document created by Kati Davich (davich.k@portseattle.org)
2024-06-12 - 3:20:47 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Matt Breed (breed.m@portseattle.org) for signature
2024-06-12 - 3:20:51 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Matt Breed (breed.m@portseattle.org)
2024-06-12 - 3:21:21 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Matt Breed (breed.m@portseattle.org)
Signature Date: 2024-06-12 - 3:23:49 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2024-06-12 - 3:23:49 PM GMT