



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
Washington, DC 20230

October 9, 2007

Mr. Leslie B. Taylor
President
THAT Corporation
45 Summer Street
Milford, MA 01757-1656

Dear Mr. Taylor:

This is in response to your letter of August 21, 2007 to the Assistant Secretary regarding the availability of stereo outputs in NTIA Coupon Program eligible digital-to-analog converter boxes and regarding converter box labeling standards.

We appreciate your comments regarding the availability of stereo audio on the RF outputs of the NTIA certified converter boxes. Under the Coupon Program Rules, NTIA requires that converter boxes provide stereo audio and provides manufacturers with options as to how they meet that requirement. BTSC stereo on the RF outputs is one of those options. We believe this is the proper course. NTIA is actively testing and certifying converters as eligible for purchase with coupons.

As Mr. Kneuer stated in his letter of August 2, 2007, NTIA is concerned that converter boxes are properly labeled and that neither consumers nor the Coupon Program are subject to waste, fraud, and abuse. This does not mean, however, that NTIA will adopt regulations which require specific labeling. Such regulations are beyond the purview of this program. We will, however, monitor converter box labeling to make sure only NTIA certified coupon eligible converter boxes are labeled "coupon eligible."

Sincerely,

Anita Wallgren
Coupon Program Director