



TIA's Performance and Accessibility for Communications Products committee, also known as TR-41, has developed and maintains standards for the performance of telephony products. These standards establish performance criteria and testing methods for analog, digital (VoIP), and mobile interfaces for handset telephones, speakerphones, headsets, mobile handsets, and voice gateways. TR-41's standards also address the accessibility of telephone products used by people with hearing loss. The Committee is currently working on a project to update ANSI/TIA-5050 to address volume control requirements for mobile handsets. Below is a summary of the project update provided by TR-41 to TIA. For the detailed TR-41 committee project update [click here](#).

### **TR-41 Hearing Aid Compatibility – Volume Control Task Group (VCTG) Update**

The VCTG is evaluating two methodologies for assessing distortion in mobile handsets related to volume control accessibility: **delta-POLQA** and **ETSI DTS/STQ-314**.

- **Delta-POLQA** compares Mean Opinion Scores (MOS) across volume levels using existing testing infrastructure. While implementation is straightforward, concerns remain about the perceptual validity of MOS differences and inter-lab consistency due to varying normalization and equipment settings.
- **ETSI DTS/STQ-314** proposes a new distortion metric compatible with AI-based noise suppression and real-world use cases. However, it remains in draft form and lacks widely available test infrastructure. Further data and lab participation are needed.

Key activities include:

- Cross-lab testing for delta-POLQA using reference/distorted files
- Standardization of normalization procedures and test software settings
- Comparative studies to assess sensitivity, consistency, and feasibility of both methods
- Engagement with vendors (Opticom, Head Acoustics) for technical validation

### **Projected Milestones:**

<b>Task/Milestone</b>	<b>Delta-POLQA</b>	<b>ETSI DTS/STQ-314</b>
Audio file preparation	Complete	Not yet started
Test Plan Development	Q3 2025	Q3 2025
Lab Testing & Normalization	Ongoing	Q3 2025
Round Robin Testing	Q4 2025	Q4 2025
Acceptance Criteria Finalization	Q1 2026	Q1 2026
ANSI Balloting & Approval	<b>Q2 2026</b>	