

We're the charity taking action on hearing loss since 1911. We can't do this without your help.

To find out more about what we do and how you can support us go to www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk

Telephone 0808 808 0123
Textphone 0808 808 9000
Email helpline@hearingloss.org.uk

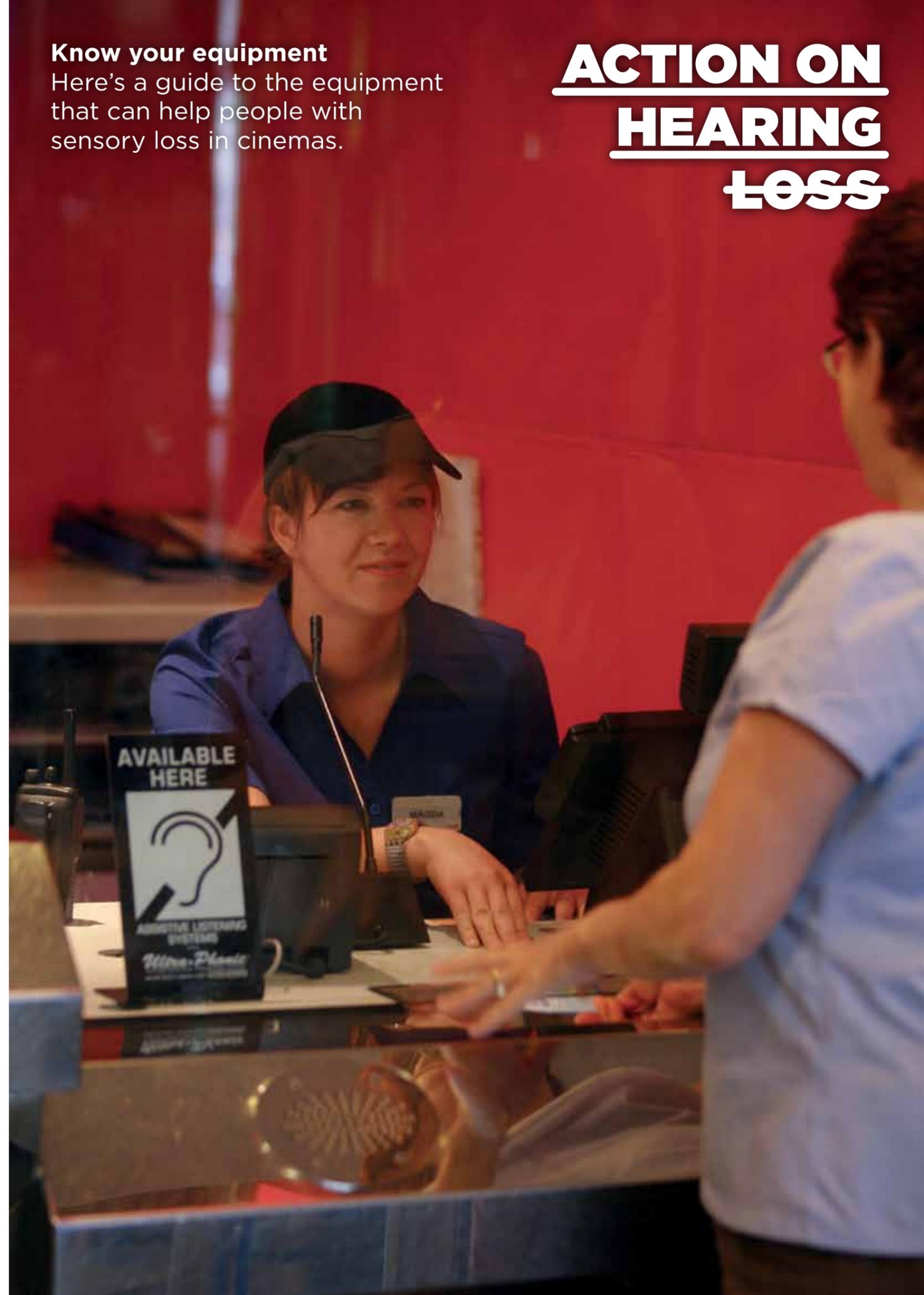
Equipment checklist

EQUIPMENT TYPE	SCREEN/LOCATION
1. Hearing loop	
2. Infrared neckloops	
3. Infrared headsets	
4. Infrared receiver	
5. Infrared headphones	
6. Audio description headphones	

Know your equipment

Here's a guide to the equipment that can help people with sensory loss in cinemas.

ACTION ON HEARING LOSS



Equipment for people with hearing loss

1. Hearing loop

The hearing loop runs around the seats in the cinema screen, and creates a magnetic field that's picked up by hearing aids. They may also be at ticket and refreshment desks.



Who uses the hearing loop?

Hearing aid wearers.

How is it used? People with hearing aids switch them to the T setting or loop program. No other equipment is needed.

Infrared system

This system bathes the cinema audience in infrared light. There are four main types of listening device available for use with infrared systems.

2. Infrared neckloops

Who uses neckloops?

Hearing aid wearers

How are they used?

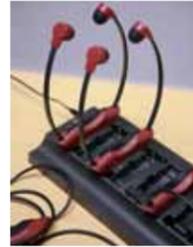
The hearing aid wearer puts it around their neck and switches their hearing aid to the T setting or loop program. The neckloop looks like a necklace. It has an infrared receiver which needs to be facing the screen.



3. Infrared headsets

Who uses headsets? People who are hard of hearing but don't use hearing aids.

How are they used? They have an infrared receiver around the neck that needs to be facing the screen. The headset looks like an upside-down pair of headphones and usually has in-ear headphones.



People with hearing aids should not be offered a headset.

4. Infrared receiver

Who uses the receiver? People with or without hearing aids, depending on what equipment they plug into the socket.



How are they used? The receiver has a headphone socket into which either headphones, a neckloop or ear hooks can be plugged into. These work in a similar way to the infrared headsets and neckloops described above.

5. Infrared headphones

Who uses the headphones? People without hearing aids can wear headphones. Hearing aid wearers may also be able to wear the headphones, however this may cause feedback producing a whistling sound.

How are they used? They are worn over the ears, and/or over the hearing aid. The infrared receiver needs to be facing the screen. Cinemas also offer Audio Description using the same headphones so the headphones must be switched to the correct channel (typically, Channel A).

For more information about obtaining the right equipment and looking after it, get in touch:

Action on Hearing Loss

www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/accessible

Telephone: 0808 808 0123 Email: informationline@hearingloss.org.uk

For any problems with loop systems, contact the Institute of Sound and Communication Engineers (ISCE) which runs an assessment scheme for audio-frequency induction loop systems. www.isce.org.uk

Equipment for people with sight loss

What is audio description?

Audio description (sometimes called AD) is a voice commentary that fits between the dialogue of a film and describes body language, facial expressions and film action, making movies easier to follow.



Who uses audio description in cinemas?

People with any degree of sight loss may find it useful.

6. How is audio description delivered?

People hear the AD soundtrack through headphones linked to the infrared audio system, so it doesn't affect anyone else in the cinema.



How are the headsets used?

The headsets are also used for hearing assistance so they must be switched to the correct channel – typically, Channel B.

For more information about audio description or visual awareness, contact:

Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)

www.rnib.org.uk/professionals/solutionsforbusiness/tvradiofilm/Pages/cinema_industry.aspx

Telephone: 0303 123 9999

Email: audiodescription@rnib.org.uk

Top tips

- Find out what type of support systems your cinema offers, and in which screens. Do you offer hearing loops or infrared systems, or both? Do you offer audio description? The equipment you offer depends on which systems you have installed.
- The equipment needs to be regularly checked and maintained.
- The headsets, headphones and neckloops will take batteries or need charging up. They need to be working at all times.
- The signal strength may vary depending on where the customer sits. Find out where in the cinema gets the best reception, and let your customers know the best places to sit depending on what equipment they want to use.
- Customers often need a quick demo of the equipment if they have never used it before. So please offer assistance.