

**PROPOSED FCC RULES ON COMPETITIVE ACCESS TO MULTIPLE  
TENANT ENVIRONMENTS (MTEs)**

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The FCC has proposed new rules governing the ability of customers in MTEs to have access to competing telecommunications providers. This was done both to “foster competition in local communications markets” and to allow viewers the complete freedom of choice envisioned in the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Among other things, the new rules could (1) prohibit contracts that effectively restrict owners and managers of MTEs from permitting access by competing carriers and (2) govern the control of in-building wiring. The stated intent of the new rules is to allow multiple carrier access to the wiring installed in a building—and prohibit contract provisions which make the use of that wiring exclusive to the company installing it or currently providing cable or internet service.

The proposed rules are not yet formally adopted, but if they are similar to those adopted regarding telephone wiring, the FCC’s position will be that this wiring should be open to multiple providers so that the residents can have their choice of services. The wiring itself, of course, is more than capable of carrying multiple signals without impairing the quality of any of them.

Until the FCC rules become reality, associations are well advised to gain ownership of wiring installed in their buildings so that the RESIDENTS can determine what services are delivered to the building.

What does your cable contract say?