

Congress Passes Four-Month Extension for Digital Television Conversion

On January 26, Congress passed the DTV Delay Act to push February's digital television back four months to June 12. In addition to extending the conversion date, the legislation extends the deadline for households to receive coupons for digital converter boxes until July 31. This will make it possible for consumers holding expired converter box coupons to reapply for new coupons.

The coupon expiration date will be extended to September 15, as opposed to the previous expiration date of 90 days after the coupons are mailed.

According to Nielsen Media Research, 6.5 percent of U. S. households are still unprepared for the government-mandated DTV conversion. If you have not taken steps to convert your television set(s) to digital, please take advantage of the four-month extension *before you lose your signals*.

For more information on how to apply (or reapply) for discount coupons, locate converter box retailers, or get answers to frequently asked questions, visit the website at www.DTV2009.gov, or call the hotline: 1-888-388-2009.

Fraud Alert!

Older adults are reminded to be aware of the potential for fraud related to the coupon converter box program and efforts to encourage them to make unnecessary television and equipment purchases. The converter box discount coupons are free. Requests for social security numbers and date of birth are not required for the coupon program. If your television is in good working condition, the only equipment needed for the transition is the converter box.