



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DIGITAL TV (DTV) TRANSITION

1. Q: *What is the digital TV (DTV) transition?*

A: The DTV transition is a change in the way that televisions in the United States will work. Digital televisions have very clear pictures and the sound on digital televisions is very good.

2. Q: *Why is the DTV transition taking place?*

A: In 1996, Congress passed a law that requires TV stations to use digital signals.


3. Q: *When will the DTV transition take place?*


A: On **June 12, 2009**.

4. Q: *Why are the DTV transition and converter box program important to Southeast Asian Americans?*

A: Among the people who will be affected most by the DTV transition are people who have limited incomes and/or speak and read limited English. Also, many people receive very important news by watching television. For example, many people learn about weather emergencies by watching their televisions. If you do not have a working television after the DTV transition, you will lose access to an important source of information that can help keep you safe.



5. Q: *Will the DTV transition affect me?*

A: If you currently have a TV in your home that uses “rabbit ears” (  ) on top of the TV or

a rooftop antenna (  ) to receive TV signals, then you will be affected by the DTV transition. You will NOT be affected if your TV does not have “rabbit ears” on top, or you do not have a rooftop antenna. Also, if you pay for a cable or satellite service, you also will not be affected by the DTV transition.

6. Q: *What will happen on June 12, 2009, if my TV uses “rabbit ears” or a rooftop antenna?*



A: If you have a TV that uses “rabbit ears” (  ) or a rooftop antenna (  ), and you have not taken any steps to address the issue, on June 12, 2009, you will lose TV signals. When you turn your TV on, you will not see anything. However, do not worry! There are easy steps you can take now to make sure this does not happen to you.

7. Q: *What can I do to make sure I can keep watching TV after June 12, 2009?*

A: You can get a converter box that will allow you to keep the TV you already have and keep being able to watch TV after June 12, 2009.

8. Q: *What is a converter box?*

A: A converter box is a small box that you can plug directly into your TV. It will allow you to keep watching TV after the DTV transition takes place. If you have more than one TV in your home that requires a converter box, you must get a box for each TV that needs one.

9. Q: *What is the converter box coupon program?*

A: Each converter box will cost between \$40 and \$70, so the government has set up a FREE coupon program to help people get the converter boxes they need for their TVs. Each household may receive up to two coupons. Each coupon is worth \$40. **SUPPLIES OF THE CONVERTER BOX COUPONS ARE LIMITED, SO YOU SHOULD GET YOUR COUPONS RIGHT AWAY!**

10. Q: *How do I get my converter box coupon(s)?*

A: You may call 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009). This number is open 24 hours a day and it is free to call. You may also go to [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov) to submit your request. Another option is to go to the [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov) website and print the request form and mail or fax it to the address that is found on the website.

11. Q: *What will the converter box coupon look like, and when will I receive it?*

A: The converter box coupons are red, and they look like plastic gift cards. You will receive your coupon(s) in the mail a few weeks after you requested it. Along with your coupon(s) you will also receive information about how to use your coupon(s), a list of converter boxes you can get with your coupon(s), a list of stores in your area where you can use the coupon(s), and answers to questions about the coupons. It is important to remember that **YOUR COUPONS CANNOT BE USED AFTER 90 DAYS**, so when you receive your coupon in the mail, please make sure to use it as soon as you can.

12. Q: *How can I be sure if I need to get a converter box?*

A: You should ask yourself these questions<sup>1</sup>.

**Do you have a TV in your house that uses a roof top antenna or “rabbit ears?”**



If you answered **NO**, you will be affected and need to get a converter box in order to keep being able to watch TV.

If you answered **YES**, then you need to ask:



Does your TV have a “digital tuner” that will allow your TV to receive digital signals?



If the answer is **YES**, then you do not need to get a converter box, and your TV will not be affected by the DTV transition.

If the answer is **NO**, then you do not need to get a converter box, and your TV will not be affected by the DTV transition.

If you are **UNSURE** if your TV has a digital tuner, you should look on your TV to see if it says “digital input” or “ATSC.” If you cannot find either of these, then you will be

13. Q: *Where can I go to find more information about the DTV transition?*

A: You may call SEARAC at 202-667-4690 or you may go to the SEARAC website ([www.searac.org](http://www.searac.org)). You may also go to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights website (<http://www.civilrights.org/dtv/>).

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<sup>1</sup> Information from <https://www.dtv2009.gov/Options.aspx>