Project 25 Compliance Assessment Program (P25 CAP)

SNAPSHOT
After years of effort, industry is incorporating Project 25 (P25) standards into public safety radio and communications equipment. Until 2009, there was no independent method by which purchasers could verify that the equipment is compliant with P25 standards. In fact, past research indicated that some radios currently marketed as P25-compliant did not meet all of the standards’ requirements. To address this issue, the Office for Interoperability and Compatibility in the Science and Technology Directorate of DHS created the P25 Compliance Assessment Program (CAP). Comprised of public safety users and communications equipment manufacturers, the P25 CAP has created an independent compliance assessment program that tests equipment for standards compliance.

RESULTS
The P25 Compliance Assessment Program:

- Is a method for the public safety community to verify that P25 equipment meets a minimum set of requirements of public safety, including interoperability.
- Impacts billions of dollars in purchases of public safety equipment to ensure that it improves interoperability.
- Supports the migration from proprietary and stove-piped communications systems to open, standards-based infrastructure.
- Ensures that emergency response technologies effectively meet the needs of practitioners in the field.

VALUE TO PUBLIC SAFETY
The P25 CAP is providing the more than 60,000 emergency response agencies nationwide with a consistent and traceable method to gather P25 compliance information on the products they buy. Through grant guidance, this Program also provides a means of verifying that Federal grant dollars are being invested in standardized solutions and equipment that promote interoperability for the public safety community. The P25 CAP also generates manufacturer competition, resulting in more affordable technologies for the public safety community.

RESOURCES
To find out more information about P25, and the P25 CAP specifically, please refer to the following resources:

- [http://www.safecomprogram.gov/SAFECOM/library/grant/1430_fy2009.htm](http://www.safecomprogram.gov/SAFECOM/library/grant/1430_fy2009.htm) contains the current SAFECOM grant guidance, which is applicable to grantees using Federal grant money to purchase communications equipment. Pages 7-8 contain the most relevant information with regard to the P25 CAP.
- [https://www.rkb.us/](https://www.rkb.us/) is the one-stop shop for public safety agencies to find information about the type of equipment that can be purchased with Federal grant money. This Web site will contain the P25 CAP-issued Supplier’s Declarations of Compliance and Summary Test Reports, which public safety agencies may use to confirm that equipment meets P25 standards.

CONTACTS
Dereck Orr, Program Manager, National Institute of Standards and Technology Office of Law Enforcement Standards, 303-497-5400, dereck.orr@nist.gov