

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/currentprojects/project25cap/> contains a wealth of information about the P25 CAP, including current Compliance Assessment Bulletins, the P25 CAP Charter, and other governing documents.
- 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.
- <http://www.its.bldrdoc.gov/resources/p25/dsr/> contains information about P25 and provides a guide for better understanding the decisions a public safety agency makes when procuring a P25 system.
- <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

Luke Berndt, Program Manager, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office for Interoperability and Compatibility, 202-254-5332, luke.berndt@dhs.gov

"Today there are more digital radios in the P25 marketplace than ever before, and competitive pressures are reducing prices. Meanwhile, more agencies are acquiring two-way radio equipment that complies with the P25 standard. There are more sellers and buyers."

-Urgent Communications