

Dear Mr. Falkner

I have been in contact with our Subject Matter Experts at the Office of Emergency Communications in an effort to satisfactorily answer and address your concerns (supporting documents attached).

Question 1

What is the definition of P25 compatible (Analog, P25 Digital, or both?) and where is the written definition that will be used in the review process?

Answer to Question 1

Project 25 is a digital radio standard. While it has an analog mode, it is written specifically to handle digital communications. The common air interface tests for performance, conformance and interoperability include validation tests for both analog (TIA-603) and digital (P25, TIA-102) capabilities.

The specific testing criteria and definitions that are used are outlined in the AFG referenced technical guidance of the "*Office of Emergency Communications: Fiscal Year 2012 SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants*" beginning on page 31, "**6.1 Standards for Land Mobile Radio Systems (P25 Suite of Standards)**" as referenced in the FY2012 AFG FOA Guidance, page 36. The AFG review process is based upon the totality of the FY2012 AFG-FOA Guidance, all referenced documents and our published FAQs:

Question 2)

Are base stations and repeaters also assumed to be required to be P25 compatible or are they exempt?

Answer to Question 2

No FY2012 AFG grant funded equipment acquisition is exempt from the requirements of the FY2012 AFG-FOA guidance.

To establish some context; a repeater is an electronic device that receives a signal and retransmits it at a higher level (frequency) or higher power (amplification):

An analog device that amplifies an input signal regardless of its nature (analog or digital).

A digital device that amplifies, reshapes, retimes, or performs a combination of any of these functions on a digital input signal for retransmission.

There are non-P25 compliant repeaters and there are P25 compliant repeaters, there are single function repeaters and there are multi-function repeaters.

Base stations and repeaters are an important piece of the Project 25 fixed infrastructure. While some P25 base stations and repeaters have an analog mode, the newer devices being implemented are digital only.

Compliance for these devices will also be handled by the common air interface tests outlined in the SAFECOM attachment referred to above (as well as the published requirements for the P25 Compliance Assessment Program).

Also, grantees can access the *Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) Grant Guidance Decision Charts*, which provide help in navigating P25 standards documents and in selecting and procuring P25 equipment (info included here on base stations/repeaters). The PSCR tool can be accessed at: http://www.pscr.gov/outreach/safecom/grant_guidance/grant_charts.php

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance

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