



File Code: 5160

Date: September 21, 2012

Potential Water Handling Vendors

In accordance with the current U.S. Forest Service direction (agency Chief Information Officer letter of May 6, 2005, "APCO 25 Digital Standard"), all procurements of very high frequency land mobile radios shall comply with digital multimode (P25 Compliant) standards; the 2010 Water Handling Equipment solicitations suggested/recommended P25 Compliant radios.

The Forest Service, Department of Interior, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Communications Commission and the National Interagency Fire Center Radio Cache have implemented the new requirement.

In the 2013 water handling solicitations for fire engines and water tenders, land mobile (tactical) radios will be required to be P25 compliant (frequency range of 138MHz to 174MHz) beginning January 1, 2014. While it is understood that there is a cost to vendors to implement this new requirement, it is also imperative to ensure safe communications in support of fire suppression activities and that all resources comply with current direction.

A list of approved radios is located at: http://www.nifc.gov/NIICD/docs/approved_radios.pdf

We appreciate your continued support to our contracting program and your effort to meet this requirement.

Sincerely,

TORY HENDERSON
Acting Assistant Director for
Operations WO-FAM-NIFC

