



**File Code:** 5100/5700

**Date:** September 9, 2013

**To:** Water Handling Vendors

**Subject:** Updated Radio Requirements for Contracted Resources

In a letter dated September 21, 2012 we informed potential water handling vendors of the plan to require P25 radios in the 2013 water handling solicitations for fire engines and water tenders. January 1, 2014 was subsequently established as the implementation date for contractor compliance with the P25 radio requirement.

**Update:** In order to achieve consistency with the national crew contract and also provide operational flexibility for water handling contractors, the radio requirement in the water handling solicitation is being revised. The new requirement will not have a specific P25 reference and the January 1, 2014 implementation date will be removed. Solicitation language will be updated on or about October 1, 2013. The solicitation will continue to require radios listed on the NIFC website:

[http://www.nifc.gov/NIICD/docs/approved\\_radios.pdf](http://www.nifc.gov/NIICD/docs/approved_radios.pdf).

The list of approved radios currently contains two analog radios (Bendix King portable GPH and mobile GMH); only these two specific analog radios will be allowed and only while they continue to be listed on the NIFC approved radio list. Although there are no immediate plans to remove the two remaining analog radios from the approved list they may be removed without notice. At such a time when the two remaining analog radios are removed from the list, contractors that already have approved P25 radios would be unaffected. Contractors without P25 radios would be considered non-compliant with the requirements of their agreement and would need to purchase P25 radios from the approved list. **In all cases, water handling contractors will be required to have radios from the approved list.**

We appreciate your continued support to our contracting program and effort to meet this requirement. For any questions or additional information please contact Kim Christensen, Deputy Assistant Director, 208-387-5949.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Steve Gage*

Steve Gage

Assistant Director, Operations

Fire & Aviation Management - NIFC



cc: Sarah Fisher, David Haston, Steve Jenkins, Shane LaValley, Debby Wesselius, Kim Luft, Anne Weiskircher, Sue Huston, Paulette Gordon, Kermadine Barton, Shundrica Perkins, Tamie Thompson, Deb Strickland