



BELTRONICS, INC.

Serving the Communications Industry since 1968
Hollis, NH - Framingham, MA

19 PROCTOR HILL RD.
HOLLIS, NH 03049

Phone: (603) 465-2422
Fax: (603) 465-3320

www.beltronics.net

e-mail: n3lee@beltronics.net

FCC Narrowbanding Mandate

On January 1, 2013 – The Federal Communications Commission has mandated that all public safety and business radio systems operating between 150 and 512 MHz radio must cease operating using 25kHz (Wide-band) efficiency, and begin operating using 12.5kHz (Narrow-band) efficiency. This deadline is the result of an FCC effort that began almost two decades ago to ensure more efficient use of the spectrum and allows greater spectrum access for all radio users. Migration to 12.5kHz efficiency will allow the creation of additional channel capacity within the same radio spectrum, allowing easier licensing and more users with less interference.

Beginning 2/1/2011, Beltronics will no longer program any radio in the wide-band mode for public safety or private business frequencies. The FCC deadline for narrow-banding all radio communications is 1/1/2013. Since there are so many radios with so many personalities; the only way to handle this correctly is to narrowband ALL frequencies at once. If you experience issues talking to a particular department, they will need to convert to narrowband. Since eventually all licensed communications will be narrowband, taking these measures today ensures that all radios are compliant **BEFORE the deadline. Using this approach, we can identify any non-compliant radios needing replacement.**

Narrowbanding is typically done in radio programming, and may require a site visit to re-program your radio repeater(s). A modification to your license must be performed to add narrowband emissions to your license type. All licenses without narrowband emissions designators will be purged on 1/1/2013! Beltronics can easily help you with both the licensing and reprogramming required for this federal mandate!

Our policy is in place to ensure that there is a contiguous movement throughout the final year that wide-band communications is permissible. As the clock ticks and gets closer to the 2013 deadline, license modification processing will slow down, and your license will be in jeopardy of being cancelled if the modifications are not done before the deadline! Don't be caught last minute – act today!

Beltronics is ready to help in meeting the FCC's requirements!

Please call with any questions!

800-323-5876



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