

DHS Science and Technology Directorate

Project 25 Compliance Assessment Program

Why it's Needed

To successfully respond to both day-to-day and large-scale incidents, first responders must be able to communicate regardless of equipment make or model. Today, this can be challenging because communications equipment manufacturers often use different technical approaches that leave their products incompatible. To address this challenge, the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) partnered with the Department of Commerce Public Safety Communications Research program to establish the Project 25 Compliance Assessment Program (P25 CAP). Through an open standards testing process, P25 CAP provides responders the confidence that the communications equipment they buy will be interoperable, regardless of manufacturer.

How it Works

P25 CAP tests communications equipment that claims to be compliant with P25 standards to ensure the equipment can work together regardless of manufacturer. P25 CAP is a voluntary program that allows manufacturers to formally demonstrate their products' compliance to P25 standards. Compliance testing is a formal, independent process that concludes with official summary test reports and suppliers' declaration of compliance documents.

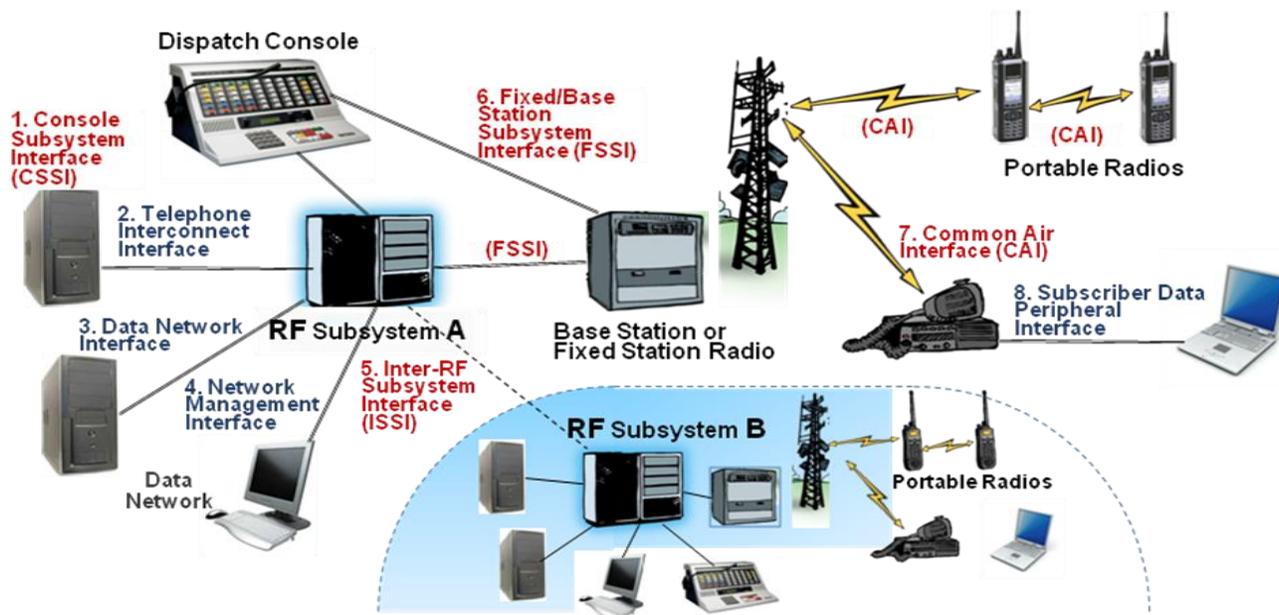
S&T makes test results available to the first response community on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Responder Knowledge Base website at <https://www.rkb.us/>.

The Value

P25 CAP helps first responders make purchasing decisions because it provides a verifiable way to know that the equipment they purchase is indeed P25 compliant and therefore provides enhanced interoperability. In addition, by encouraging the purchase of P25 CAP-compliant communications equipment in grant guidance, P25 CAP is helping to ensure federal grant funds are used to purchase interoperable solutions for local, tribal, and state first responders. Ultimately, this ensures interoperability and reduces waste and poor investments in untested equipment.

Next Steps

The testing laboratory competency assessment functions of the P25 CAP, which are currently conducted by the CAP itself, will in the future be conducted by third-party laboratory accreditation organizations. The P25 CAP will recognize appropriately-accredited laboratories for participation in the CAP program.



P25 standards ensure data can be passed across all levels of digital radio interfaces, as illustrated above.



Homeland Security

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To learn more about P25 CAP, contact SandTFRG@dhs.gov