

Narrowbanding FAQs

Do I have to narrowband my radios?

The FCC has mandated that all radio users operating in the VHF (150-170MHz) and UHF (421-512MHz) bands must operate in 12.5KHz by December 31, 2012. If your radios are not operating at a bandwidth of 12.5KHz or less they must be reprogrammed or replaced.

Do I have to purchase new radios?

Most radios sold in the past ten years have the ability to be reprogrammed to operate at 12.5KHz. If you have older radios that can not be reprogrammed to operate at 12.5KHz you will need to replace those units.

How much does reprogramming cost?

Reprogramming at the customer location generally costs \$25.00 - \$35.00 per unit assuming we are provided a steady flow of equipment to program. Older and off brand units may require shop or depot programming and may be higher.

Reprogramming at our service center generally costs \$15.00 - \$25.00 when multiple units are done at once. Older and off brand units may require shop or depot programming and may be higher.

A firm quote can be provided after an inventory of models and quantities are provided to us.

What happens if my radio fails during reprogramming?

Radios can sometimes operate correctly with a corrupt code plug, however, when the radio is read and reprogrammed the corrupt code plug can cause the radio to fail. In this case, if the radio is in support but out of warranty, the radio will require depot repair for an additional charge. If a radio that is out of support fails during programming that radio will need to be replaced for an additional charge.

Does my base station or repeater need to be converted?

If your system is not operating at 12.5KHz your base stations or repeater equipment will need to be reprogrammed or replaced to operate in 12.5KHz. Equipment that is less than ten years old is generally reprogrammable to operate in narrowband, but older equipment may need to be replaced. Base station and repeater reprogramming is provided at a rate of \$95.00 per hour. The number of hours required to convert a system to 12.5KHz operation will vary based on the system type and the logistics of the cutover plan. Please contact us for a firm quote.

How will my radio performance be affected by the narrowband change?

Radios operating at 12.5KHz can lose a slight amount of range and audio as compared to wideband 25KHz radios. The narrowband audio is sometimes said to be "less robust" than wideband audio. Both the loss of range and changes in audio can be overcome with a change from analog to digital technology, but this generally requires that all equipment is replaced.

Is a cutover plan required for reprogramming or replacement of my equipment?

Yes since all your portable and mobile units and base stations/repeaters will need to be reprogrammed or replaced, a cutover plan will need to be in place. We will work with you to coordinate the most effective plan that will help minimize down time and expedite the narrowbanding conversion process.

