ILSIEC
ILLINOIS STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Radio Maintainers (Government and Private Sector), Radio Manufacturers, Radio Vendors, and Public Safety Agency Executives

Re: Statewide Interoperability Template for Public Safety/Public Service Radios

The SIEC finalized important documents to aid in standardizing radio interoperability channels and common Talk Groups on the State's Trunked Radio Platform, STARCOM21. This new template, adopted in 2022, known as the Statewide Interoperability template (SWIT) supplants the long-standing Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) template, but more importantly, adds VHF and UHF interoperability channels for both nation-wide and Federal Agency interoperability channels.

The updated SWIT covers all public safety and public service disciplines and also addresses standardization of cache radios. Existing radios that have the legacy ITTF template is generally backwards compatible, although not all new features of the SWIT are available.

There are specific resource documents available from the State to facilitate the distribution of the necessary data to program radios to meet the interoperability standards and best practices.

The SWIT and all State-Approved documents for programming guidance per public safety discipline are found at: https://iemaohs.illinois.gov/hs/interoperability.html

It is the intent that these resources will help facilitate the goal of having as many radios as possible compliant with the SWIT by January 1, 2026. Radio vendors and maintainers should note that radios should be sold, serviced, and deployed with great consideration made to comply with the SWIT. There will be outreach to various agencies and entities to implement this vital capability. These include discipline-specific associations and communication industry-recognized associations.

Participating in the encrypted resources is optional. Radios purchased with the intent to use encryption need to have AES 256 encryption and multi-key capability. As part of the information needed, it is imperative that those agencies wishing to use radio encryption should consult with the State to avoid inadvertent assignment of the same encryption key slot used on a local system that may already be taken by other encryption users or used in the SWIT.

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