

NOAA GOES Data Collection System (DCS) Policy on Use of Certified Transmitters

NOAA Policy is to require the use of certified transmitters by users of the GOES Data Collection System (DCS). All users sign a System Use Agreement (SUA) assenting to comply with this mandate as terms of use of the system. All transmitter manufacturers are informed and aware of this policy, and agree to distribute only certified equipment as terms of the certification process.

When NOAA issues a new certification standard, any and all prior certification standards are revoked after an announced transition period. NOAA works diligently with the user and manufacturing community to assure that transitions to new standards are not burdensome to the manufacturing or user community.

The current Certification standard is [GOES Data Collection Platform Radio Set \(DCPRS\) CERTIFICATION STANDARDS, Version 2.0, June 2009](#). NOAA announced at the GOES DCS Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting in May 2011 that three manufacturers were certified to this standard. In keeping with NOAA's standard practice VERSION 1.0B of the 300 / 1200 BPS **GOES** Data Collection Platform Radio Set (DCPRS) **CERTIFICATION STANDARDS NOAA / NESDIS** March 2000 is revoked. As stated in the minutes of the May 2011 meeting (http://www.noaasis.noaa.gov/DCS/docs/San_Diego_TWG_Session_I_Minutes.doc) no Version 1.0B transmitters may be sold after May 31, 2012, and no new Version 1.0 assignments will be issued after May 31, 2013. In accordance with NOAA's policy of minimizing impacts to users all existing transmitters will be supported for 10 years, until May 31, 2022.

NOAA makes every effort to work with users and manufacturers to test and evaluate new technologies to ensure that the highest standards of performance are maintained. All changes are made with a view to system wide sustainability. Growing demand and ever changing technology require a vigilant upgrade path while synchronizing all components of the system: space segment, ground segment, manufacturing segment and user segments. This path is well documented and advertised. NOAA leverages input from industry, users, and partner agencies to evaluate impact of transition and provide for a seamless upgrade for all users. For all aspects of these segments to work, the upgrade plan must be adhered to by all involved.

A strong component of the value of Version 2 transmitters is the decreased power required to use them. NOAA has moved completely to a new generation of satellites (GOES NOP) and fully supports the decreased power mandated by the new standard. While some transmitters will be at a higher power until they are phased out NOAA has determined that the system loading is contained at a level that users of the new transmitters shall not be impacted by this variation. NOAA has demonstrated that the performance of the NOP satellites meets and even exceeds performance specifications to compensate so that all users will see high quality transmissions.

Finally, users are reminded that all 100 Bit Per Second transmitters are to be removed from the system by May 31, 2013 (<http://noaasis.noaa.gov/DCS>), in agreement with this policy statement.

NOAA has equipped our ground segment with new software that allows monitoring of transmitters. In our next release of the DCS Administration and Data Distribution System (DADDS) a new flag will be appended to each message to identify the wave form used, thereby identifying the Certification Standard of the transmitter. NOAA will use this information to work with users to provide the most efficient and flexible path forward to make it possible for the entire community to reap the benefits of the expanded capacity provided by the current Certification Standard. Please join with us in making the DCS system available and effective for all users of the system.