



Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Department of Administrative Services

Matt Whatley, Interim Director



June 9, 2021

Subject: Subscriber Equipment Update, June 2021

Dear MARCS Subscriber,

As part of ongoing efforts to ensure the Ohio Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) meets the latest technology needs of subscribers and the citizens they serve, the MARCS Steering Committee recently approved updates to policy MPP 31.1; *Minimum Requirements for P25 Compliance on the MARCS Statewide Public Safety Communication System*.

Included in this update is a method allowing MARCS to structure system keys to the many partners across Ohio. MARCS system keys submitted for renewal will no longer support end of life (EOL) devices effective January 1, 2022. MARCS staff will maintain system keys for EOL devices.

Radio Authentication (RA) is being required by July 1, 2025. If you have EOL devices that are capable of being updated to RA, these radios can continue to be used even past the July 1, 2025 deadline. RA, coupled with hard system keys no longer supporting EOL devices, will alleviate the security risk associated with pirated soft system keys.

Beginning July 1, 2022, MARCS will no longer activate new device requests unless the device has Radio Authentication, and MARCS will no longer allow the transfer of EOL devices between agencies unless the device has Radio Authentication. MARCS will monitor incoming requests for service. If there is a question with an EOL device, MARCS staff will work directly with the agencies involved.

An up-to-date approved subscriber equipment list is available on the MARCS webpage at <https://tinyurl.com/4nxu6tc8>. Please evaluate your devices to ensure they meet the minimum requirements outlined in MPP 31.1.

The use of manufacturer-supported equipment is essential to safe and secure public safety communications. We appreciate your partnership and support as we work to maintain a secure MARCS environment.

For more information, please contact the MARCS Program Office by sending an e-mail to DAS-MARCS.Admin@das.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,

Rick Schmahl
MARCS Program Director