IPAWS

Conformity Assessment Program

FEMA

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In June 2006, the President signed the Public Alert and Warning System Executive Order to drive the creation of a more "effective, reliable, integrated, flexible, and comprehensive system that enables the American people to receive alert and warning information through as many means as possible." In response, the U.S. Government established the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) – the nation's next-generation infrastructure of alert and warning networks expanding upon the traditional audio-only radio and television Emergency Alert System (EAS). IPAWS provides Federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local warning authorities the capabilities to alert and warn their respective communities of all hazards impacting public safety.

What is the Conformity Assessment Program?

IPAWS will interoperate with future and existing state and local systems. In order for these systems to communicate they must use the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), an international standard that is already in wide use. The Conformity Assessment (CA) Program will assess vendor product adherence to, and the appropriate application of the CAP Profile* for alert message protocols. This will allow the Government to verify that systems conform to the CAP Profile, a requirement to interface properly with IPAWS.

What is IPAWS Doing?

Participating vendors will submit their products to the CA Program where they will be exhaustively tested for conformance with the CAP Profile. Products that conform will have their Supplier's Declaration of Conformity (SDoC) posted to the Responders Knowledge Base (RKB) website along with a description of their product and contact information. Broadcasters and emergency managers can be assured that these products conform to the CAP standard.

What Benefits will the Conformity Assessment Program Provide IPAWS?

Products that are CAP compliant will be able to generate or consume messages from IPAWS. The CA Program will provide state and local IPAWS users the ability to view a list of pre-screened vendors when considering Alert and Warning system purchases or upgrades.

Additional Information

Responders, broadcasters, and other EAS equipment users are encouraged to learn more about the program and to access test reports on the RKB website (https://www.rkb.us) before making their next purchase. Vendors are encouraged to access the following CA Program website to apply for a test: www.nimssc.org/ipawsconform. Additional information about IPAWS may be at accessed at: http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws.

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* Specifically, the CAP v1.2 IPAWS USA Profile v1.0, approved through the international standards body OASIS (Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards – http://www.oasis-open.org).