



5215 Wiley Post Way #550
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
Phone 801-840-4200
www.uca911.org

February 21, 2025

UCA NEWSLETTER 2025-001

IMPORTANT UPDATE ON BDA USAGE ON UTAH'S PUBLIC SAFETY NETWORK

In 2013, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted new rules for Bi-Directional Amplifiers (BDA's) which went into full effect on March 1, 2014. The FCC requires that non-licensees who seek to operate signal boosters must obtain the consent of the licensee[s] whose signals they intend to amplify. Consent will be provided as a letter, which the FCC requires is kept on file for presentation upon the request of the FCC or licensees.

The FCC requires signal boosters to be used on a non-interference basis. As such, if a signal booster is suspected of causing harmful interference, the operator must turn off or adjust the settings of the device at the request of the Utah Communications Authority (UCA) or the FCC.

Starting March 1, 2025, the Utah Communications Authority (UCA) will no longer allow Class B bi-directional amplifiers (BDAs) on the Statewide Public Safety P25 network. However, if you already have a Class B BDA installed, you can continue using it until it either causes interference or fails, at which point, it must be replaced with a Class A BDA.

This phased transition gives agencies and stakeholders time to upgrade to Class A BDAs, which are more reliable and less likely to interfere with the P25 network. Class A BDAs meet stricter technical standards, ensuring better performance, and compatibility with the P25 system.

To prepare for this change, public safety agencies should:

- Evaluate their current BDA setups
- Monitor for any performance issues
- Plan and budget for future replacements
- Coordinate with UCA to stay compliant with updated technical guidelines

For any questions or assistance, please reach out to Dan Dialogue, Assistant Director, Radio Network Division at ddialogue@uca911.org. UCA is here to help ensure a smooth transition and maintain strong communication across the network.

Thank you,

Tina Mathieu
Executive Director
Utah Communications Authority