

Good Morning Chiefs,

I hope that the new year has found you all well. Yesterday it was brought to my attention that there were some concerns over a notice that was sent out by the North Carolina Voice of Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders – County/Agency Partners. This memo is sent out each January and outlines the State of North Carolina VIPER groups plans for approved radio usage and plans for the decommission of radios on the NC VIPER System during the 2025 transition over to Phase 2 P25.

The Concern was raised over one particular item located in the document that addresses KENWOOD RADIOS. The KENWOOD **NX** series portables have been identified as one of several models of Project 25 capable radios that will be forced from the system July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. The reason for this change is that the NX series Kenwood portable and mobiles although Phase 2 P25 capable are not able to be encrypted using the approved encryption device.

The NX Series Radio Below is the radio that has been identified by NC VIPER as needing to be replaced by 2025.

The following Vendors and their respective listed Radio Model Numbers **are no longer approved** for use on the VIPER system regardless of where they are purchased from or how they are acquired by the end user/agency.

**Kenwood**– The Kenwood NX series radios **are no longer approved** for use on the VIPER network. \*\* See below section regarding Encryption and Key Loading\*\*



As it is seen in the picture above the model number beginning with the **NX** characters indicates that this model is to be replaced, so any agency using this model please be aware of the need for replacement by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

The concern over KENWOOD being named does not mean that the JVC KENWOOD EFJ VIKING VP or VM series portables and mobiles are affected. The current and future purchases of the VIKING Series radios are still approved by the NC VIPER Group and being they are sold to us with P25 Phase 2 activated we are ready for the 2025 transition.

## Notice of Approved Vendor Radios for use on North Carolina VIPER Statewide Radio System for the period 1 January – 31 December 2023

The following Vendors and their respective listed Radio Model Numbers are hereby approved for **NEW** radio purchases. NEW is defined as a currently manufactured radio, that includes TDMA (Phase II operation), directly from a manufacturer or authorized vendor/manufacturer's representative.

**Motorola** – APX 900/4000/6000/8000/NXT portables, APX 1500/4500/6500/8500 mobiles and APX8500 series consolettes.

➡ **EF Johnson – Kenwood** – EFJ VP5000/VP6000/8000 portables and VM5000/6000/7000 mobiles.



As seen above the Viking VP series are approved to operate on the NC VIPER System.

Just FYI and on another note, it is outlined in the document as well that the XTS and XTL family portable and mobiles have been discontinued by Motorola as we are all aware, and the NC VIPER group has made it clear that even though these radios are working today, they will continue to be acceptable as long as no changes occur, ie. If a department keeps these radios in working order, then there is no need for concern immediately. However, if a department was to sell their XTS portables or XTL mobiles to

another agency in NC, the purchasing agency would not be allowed to request system IDs for those models since these radios are to be replaced, and no longer support by Motorola and the NC VIPER group.



I hope this helps in giving proper information and no assumptions. If at anytime your Randolph County Association of Fire Chiefs – Communications Committee can assist you, please do not hesitate to reach out.

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