



LAND MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL

For immediate release

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LMCC OBJECTS TO REVISED IS STANDARDS FOR U.S. MANUFACTURERS AND USERS

On November 11, 2010, the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) submitted a letter to FM Approvals regarding revisions to the American National Standards (ANSI) and International Society of Automation (ISA) 60079-11 series in order to harmonize the standard with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) 60079 series of standards. In the letter, LMCC expressed "grave concerns" and urged reconsideration due to the impact the changes would have on users of land mobile radios including public safety, oil, electric, gas and other critical infrastructure companies and other user groups.

LMCC pointed out that FM Approvals engaged land mobile radio manufacturers and user groups only recently in their revision process for the 3610 approval standard. As a result, FM Approvals may not be aware that there may be no land mobile radios currently available that satisfy FCC certification and the revised 3610 standard. Manufacturers will need, LMCC stated, to redesign radios, a process that can take upwards of a year or more. Petroleum refineries will need several years to map and transition to a new facility classification system, with additional training required for personnel to operate newly redesigned radios.

The financial burden on land mobile radio users will increase with the requirement to change communications systems infrastructure to add base stations and antenna towers to accommodate the lower power mobile devices, as well as replace batteries and chargers. This additional expense will take place within the context of the FCC's mandate to replace wideband land mobile radios with narrowband equipment by January 1, 2013.

The LMCC asserts that "...forced migration to a new intrinsically safe standard should be required only if it has been demonstrated beyond doubt that the current standard does not adequately promote safe operation" and urged FM Approvals to reconsider implementation of the revised 3610 approval standard as it applies to land mobile radios.

The LMCC is a nonprofit association of organizations representing land mobile radio carriers and manufacturers equipment; LMCC membership represents diverse telecommunications sectors such as public safety, industrial/land transportation, private radio, specialized mobile radio and critical infrastructure.