



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
MISSOURI INTEROPERABILITY CENTER

**Policy Title: New Talkgroup Justification Standard**

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**Required Outcome(s):**

MOSWIN System Administration will be given common criteria to determine the need for new talkgroups. This will ensure the system is not populated with talkgroups rarely used by member agencies. MOSWIN System Administration will work with each applicant agency to identify their talkgroup needs.

**Definitions:**

**Talkgroup:** The term roughly equated to the term “channel” in conventional radio systems. A talkgroup is similar to and serves the same purpose as a legacy “channel” in that it has a unique name and anyone with permitted access can participate with other users on that talkgroup. Similar to a conventional channel, a talkgroup can have any number of users.

**Shared Talkgroup** Talkgroups may be shared by more than one agency. However, if an agency has established a talkgroup for its exclusive use, such as wide area dispatch, the agency would have to authorize any outside agencies to share this talkgroups. A typical example is a county providing dispatch service for a city agency.

**Level/One Daily Use:** This includes Missouri State, Local and Federal public safety member agencies that have chosen to use MOSWIN for their full time/day-to-day and mission critical communications. These member agencies have applied to become full-time users of MOSWIN. This use is defined in the member agency's approval letter.

**Talkgroup Costs:**

Currently, there are no user fees associated with MOSWIN system access. The development of talkgroups for member agencies is done as needed by MOSWIN system administration on a case by case basis.

To increase system capacity in areas where additional users will stress the existing MOSWIN assets, MOSWIN Administration may require system applicants to submit to a review of their licensed Federal Communications Commission (FCC) frequencies and other communications assets for consideration and inclusion into the overall MOSWIN infrastructure and frequency plan.

**Standard:**

Each application must meet the following standards when requesting a talkgroup.

- The applicant agency will be a Level 1 users of MOSWIN (see [Level 1 Member Agency Policy](#)).
- The applicant agency will demonstrate the need for the addition of each talkgroup.
- The talkgroup will be used for essential communications between the radio users that cannot be accomplished through an established interoperable talkgroup.
- The organization must meet the definition of a public safety entity per MOSWIN guidelines.

**Supporting Documents and Information:**

An agency must complete a Member Agency [Talkgroup Request Form](#) application that includes the following:

- The number of channels or talkgroups currently in use either on MOSWIN or any another communication system.
- The number of users planned for the talkgroup.
- Any disciplinary action taken within the MOSWIN system
- Justification for the new talkgroup(s) should include an explanation of its intended use. The following are examples and are not intended to be a complete list of justifications:
  - o Dispatching
  - o Mission Critical Communications
  - o Removing traffic from a dispatching talkgroup for other communications
  - o Removing traffic from a dispatching talkgroup during events
  - o Ability to conduct more than one conversation during an event
  - o Use as a common channel within a group of talkgroups
  - o Use as an interoperability channel for users outside the main group
    - § For this justification to hold true, the entity must already have (use) multiple talkgroups
  - o Backup communication is not considered a valid justification
  - o Other - please define