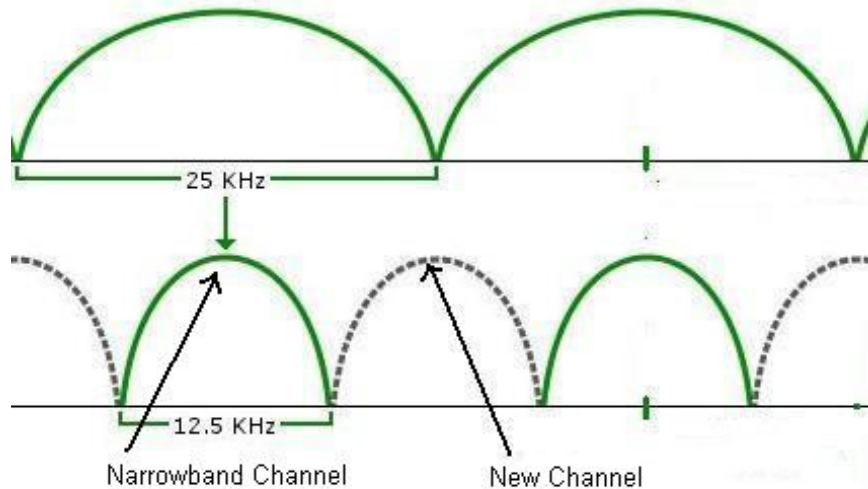


# Narrowbanding in a Nutshell

- Today most two way radio systems in the VHF (150-174 MHz) and UHF (421-512 MHz) bands use channel bandwidths of 25 kHz.
- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has mandated that all licensees using wideband 25 kHz channel bandwidths convert to narrowband 12.5 kHz channel bandwidths by January 1, 2013.



- Narrowbanding is NOT optional. You cannot simply ignore the FCC's narrowbanding rules. If you are using the VHF and/or UHF bands and not currently operating narrowband equipment, you will be affected. Your existing wideband system will need to be modified or replaced by January 1, 2013, and organizations that do not meet the deadline face the loss of communication capabilities. Legal or punitive actions might also be applied.
- In many cases, radios operating narrowband will not exhibit the same "talk power" (that is, the ability to communicate over a given distance or area) as today's wideband radios. Therefore, you should test your narrowband radio coverage area and make any changes before the mandate becomes effective.
- Many current model LMR radios are already "dual bandwidth" capable – meaning they can be programmed to operate in wideband channel bandwidths or in narrowband channel bandwidths. Therefore, if you have "dual bandwidth" capable radios, meeting the FCC narrowband mandate does not necessarily mean buying new radios. However, some older radios may have the capability to utilize narrowband channel bandwidths, but yet not provide the channel spacing required in the new band plans. Those radios may need to be replaced.
- Organizations need to start planning now to migrate to narrowband systems by assessing their radio equipment, their radio coverage area needs, and planning to modify their FCC licenses.
- **Be cautious of the following:** Solicitations from companies telling you to send money to modify your FCC license, companies telling you that you must replace your radios with digital radios, or companies telling you that your newer radios are not narrowband capable.
- We at Industrial Communications are prepared to help you make informed decisions about how to implement narrowbanding. Contact us for help with your narrowband conversion.

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