



FEMA

MEMORANDUM

To: EAS-CAP Industry Group (ECIG)

From: Antwane Johnson
Division Director
Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Program Management Office

Date: August 9, 2010

Subject: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Concurrence with the “**ECIG Recommendations For a CAP EAS Implementation Guide**” Guidance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency IPAWS Program Office would like to announce that it has reviewed and concurs with the above referenced document, with the following conditions:

- 1) **Specific Mime Types:** This recommendation envisions that the CAP standard and IPAWS CAP Profile would be altered to specifically enumerate and/or identify the mime type in the message, as:
 - a. *audio/x-ipaws-audio-mp3*
 - b. *audio/x-ipaws-audio-wav*
 - c. *audio/x-ipaws-streaming-audio-mp3*

Currently, the CAP 1.2 specification does not require specific enumeration and/or identification of mime type, rather assumes that the file type associated with a message should not be restricted. FEMA believes that specific enumeration and/or identification should not refer to specific mime types, hence allowing any file type to be associated with a given alert message.

- 2) **EASText <parameter> Element:** This recommendation envisions that a new element called “EASText” would be implemented in the CAP standard and IPAWS CAP Profile that would allow emergency managers and other CAP message originators to dictate the exact text they wish to see conveying their message in TV visual crawl messages and radio and TV aural messages voiced by text-to-speech technology.

This element is not currently supported in the CAP standard or the IPAWS CAP Profile, however FEMA believes that, in that, the Implementation Guide describes a satisfactory alternate means of deriving this information, this area may be addressed in a future revision to the CAP standard and the IPAWS CAP Profile.

It should be noted that public alerts and warnings intended for transmission over the Emergency Alert System (EAS) may be encoded as Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) messages in various ways. As

both CAP v1.2 and the CAPv1.2 IPAWS Profile v1.0 make use of several free form text elements and several optional elements, there is ample opportunity for a CAP message rendered by one CAP-to-EAS device to differ when rendered by another vendor's device. There can also be a difference between what the originator intended for an alert, and what alerts contain, when broadcast by CAP/EAS devices.

The EAS-CAP Industry Group (ECIG), formed in 2008 as a group of EAS equipment manufacturers and other interested parties, has produced this recommendation, for use by the CAP-to-EAS vendor equipment community. The guide is intended to further reduce the areas of uncertainty in how an alert will be presented to the public via CAP/EAS, so that originators and distributors of alerts can deliver the intended message to the public, regardless of the vendors or platforms involved. The guide has not been written to benefit any specific vendor or type of equipment. The goal is general interoperability at a data and messaging level.

The EAS-CAP Implementation Guide has been prepared in light of several points of reference, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) CAP v1.2 IPAWS Profile v1.0 Requirements, the recently approved CAP 1.2 specification, and other references. The guide has been written to facilitate the success of any CAP-to-EAS system including existing and planned state, local, territorial and tribal systems; the proposed IPAWS system, and emerging National Weather Service systems. To that end, in addition to addressing general CAP-to-EAS implementation issues, this guide also directly addresses constraints and requirements of the IPAWS program.

FEMA is encouraged by, and applauds the efforts of ECIG, the vendor community and others involved in developing these recommendations. In addition, FEMA looks forward to working with the ECIG community to move this forward to a successful implementation.