Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS)
Standards, Protocols, Procedures

ISICS Standard:	**Standard #:**	3.7.0
Scanning	Date Adopted:	04/12/2018
	Date Reviewed:	8/13/2026
	Version:	2.0

1. Purpose or Objective

The purpose of this standard is to identify operational procedures and responsible authorities governing scanning activities.

2. Technical Background

- **Capabilities**

  The network infrastructure and subscriber units may be configured to permit managed user scanning of talkgroups. Scanning is a user option. - .
  Talkgroups are activated if there is at least one user affiliated at the site that has the talkgroup of interest as their selected channel.

- **Constraints**

  Including a talkgroup in a non-priority scan list will not necessarily result in hearing traffic on that talkgroup. A talkgroup that is scanned must also be "active" at the site where the user is affiliated to receive audio.

3. Operational Context

A talkgroup owner may pre-approve monitoring privileges. Any unauthorized transmission on non-owned talkgroups in violation of this policy may result in immediate subscriber unit de-authorization and removal of the talkgroup from the radio prior to reauthorization on the network.

The network infrastructure and subscriber units will need to be configured so users can have wide area coverage and still maintain an acceptable level of service for all users. The

use of “Critical User” and “Critical Site” or “parking” on the system for the purpose of non-priority scanning, by forcing talkgroups onto ISICS sites, or setting a radio at a site for the sole purpose to pull non-essential traffic, is not permitted per ISICSB Standard 3.5.0 – Statewide Wide Area Talkgroup Access and Management unless permission by the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) is granted, and scanning between different sites will be accomplished by the use of “requested sites.” Local enhancements are exempt.

4. Recommended Protocol/Standard

Talkgroup owners and Subsystem Administrators may approve limited scanning/monitoring privileges. Before scanning/monitoring of owned talkgroups, permission must be granted.

As cited in ISICS Standard 3.12.0-Use of Shared Talkgroups, permission must come from:

- The Subsystem Administrators of the sites that are being requested for the talkgroup
- The jurisdiction / agency who is the “owner” of the requested talkgroup

Mutual aid, special roaming, and other shared talkgroups may be scanned at any time; however, “requested site” determinations will be made by the Subsystem Administrators of the affected sites.

5. Recommended Procedure

- **Scanning Configuration**

  If trunked scanning is desired, it is recommended that the local Subsystem Administrator set the radio site preferences to facilitate the scanning needs of the user, as well as coordinate with other Subsystem Administrators that may be impacted by changes in site talkgroup load.

- **Scanning of Non-Home Site Talkgroups**

  It is possible to monitor a non-home talkgroup by configuring the system to request the non-home talkgroup appear on your primary/home system or “always preferred site(s).” However, doing so will consume a repeater channel on your primary/home system or “always preferred site(s)” and will carry the requested non-home talkgroups priority setting with it. Also, a call on the requested non-home talkgroup will not be delayed (busy queued) if the home system or “always preferred site(s)” does not have a channel available. While this “requested site” is the recommended approach, it must be carefully controlled, monitored, and evaluated, as it could exhaust system resources and it must be approved by the affected administering agency.

6. Management

The site owner and Subsystem Administrator will be the responsible authority for scanning issues. If an issue is unable to be resolved at the local level, it can be brought to the ISICSB.