

BDA FAQ's

- What is a Bi-Directional Amplifier (BDA)?

Bi-Directional Amplifier (BDA) are signal boosters that sustain two-way radio communications for first responders throughout a facility – including in stairwells, underground tunnels, parking garages, and other challenging areas.

- Who is required to obtain a BDA?

All new buildings, excluding single family dwellings as well as all existing buildings excluding single family dwellings undergoing substantial renovation, (Substantial renovation will be considered 50% or greater accumulative renovation of the building) a change of occupancy, or the installation of a new fire alarm system shall have approved radio coverage for First Responders within the building based upon the existing signal levels of Bedford Public Safety Communications at the exterior of the building. This section shall not require improvement of the existing public safety communication systems.

1. New Construction: For new construction, installation of the BDA must be completed and inspected before the certificate of occupancy (C.O.) is issued.
2. Existing Structures: For existing structures, the BDA must be completed and inspected within six (6) months after construction complete.
 - a. Existing buildings undergoing substantial renovation, a change of occupancy, or the installation of a new fire alarm system are required to provide radio coverage as per this specification for Bedford Public Safety Communications.

- Who is exempt from needing a BDA?

Buildings that have sufficient levels of radio coverage to satisfy the requirements of this specification may request a waiver with the following constraints:

- a. A radio survey as described in this specification must be submitted and signed by a qualified and or licensed communications/radio vendor. (*Building must be substantially completed with all walls, windows, roof, interior partitions completed prior to the survey*)
- b. The survey shall be submitted with the waiver request.
- c. If approved, the waiver will only be valid for a 5-year period from the date of acceptance by the Town of Bedford at which time a new radio survey must be submitted.
- d. If at any time the Town of Bedford determines its public safety communications radio coverage does not meet this specification, the waiver will be withdrawn and the property owner shall be required to provide Bedford Public Safety Communications radio coverage as required by this specification.

- How to do I get a BDA?

Prior to the construction of an Emergency Responder Communication System, a permit must be applied for and submitted to:

Bedford Fire Department
Attention: Fire Prevention
55 Constitution Drive
Bedford, NH 03110
Phone # (603) 472-3219
Fax # (603) 472-4565

[Click Here for Permit Link](#)

Permits may be filled out online, but must be submitted in person.

- What is the cost?
 - Cost of BDA may vary based on building size and structure.
 - Cost of Permit:
 - Minimum \$50
 - All systems: \$0.018/SF
 - Plan review (new, replacement, or expansion)
 - Areas 4000 sq ft or less \$50
 - Areas 4001 sq ft or greater \$100

- Do BDA's need to be tested?

Yes. Delivered audio quality (DAQ) testing will be conducted by Town of Bedford authorized communications/radio service vendor personnel to ensure two-way radio coverage on each floor of the building meets the minimum coverage requirements.

There is also Annual Testing required to certify all active components of the in-building radio system, including but not limited to amplifier, power supplies, and back-up batteries, were inspected by a qualified communications/radio vendor on a minimum of once every twelve (12) months commencing on or about the date of acceptance by the Town of Bedford and continuing thereafter until the system is decommissioned by the Town of Bedford.

As well as testing every 5 years In addition to the annual test as provided above, a radio coverage test shall be conducted a minimum of once every five (5) years from on or about the date of acceptance to ensure the radio system continues to meet the requirements of this ordinance. The procedure set forth in Section 3 shall apply to all such tests.