



1. Are Tier 2 orders binding?

Yes.

This was printed on the Tier 2 order form, and was required in order to apply for a funding grant to cover the subsidy. CFA was required to order and purchase the units in advance to qualify for the grant.

If you would like to reduce your order only marginally, please phone the VFBV Office to discuss. If another brigade has expressed a desire to order more, then we may be able to match the units you no longer want, with a Brigade that wanted more. We can't guarantee this is possible, but will use our best endeavours to accommodate the Brigade's wishes.

2. Who will own the units?

This is a brigade/group decision. If the brigade purchases the units using brigade funds, then they will be owned by the brigade/group and can be allocated at the brigade's or group's discretion.

Many brigades/groups are likely to request that individual members purchase the units at their own expense, in which case brigades/groups will determine how to prioritize the subsidized units, but once the member reimburses the brigade/group for the unit cost, the device will then become the property of that individual.

3. Can we sell the units?

This is a tricky question. Legally, once the Brigade or individual takes ownership of a unit, you are entitled to dispose of it like any other asset. However, it should be acknowledged that public funds have been used to subsidize the cost of the unit to the brigade and/or individual in recognition of their use to assist the member with their CFA duties, and it would be extremely bad faith to then go and on sell a unit for which you been provided a grant for within close proximity of the purchase date.

However, if the Brigade or member decides they need to dispose of the unit down the track, you should seek to offer it to a fellow CFA member at the same cost (or less) to which you paid for it. If you are unable to find an internal buyer and you have exhausted all reasonable steps to do so, the unit could be advertised publically, however the sale price should not exceed the price you paid for it (including shipping and handling).

It would be extremely disappointing for any Brigade/Group/Member attempting to make a profit from the disposal of a subsidized unit, by reselling it at retail pricing and whilst we do not believe anyone would try to do this, if examples are found, the Brigade/Group may find it very difficult to apply for any future VESEP or similar grant in the future. We would request the Brigade/Group leadership make this clear to all members, and actively educate their members on the risk to public confidence such endeavours would have, not only on the reputation of the Brigade/Group, but to CFA and volunteers in general.

4. I own a small business. Can I purchase these units for re-sale?

No. These units are only available exclusively for CFA members.

These units are likely to be offered to the public through the manufacturer's normal wholesale and retail channels at some point in the future, but is unlikely to occur before the end of CFA's distribution program. Any decision to offer the unit to the public will be solely at the discretion of the manufacturer.

5. When can we expect to receive our order?

The first shipments of Tier 2 orders is likely to commence shipping during the first week of April for as long as stocks last. As previously advised, it can take up to 120 days from receipt of the order to when the manufacturer has them available in the country. CFA is expecting additional orders to arrive from the manufacturer in mid May and mid June.

All Tier 2 orders will be shipped in the order that payment is received, so Brigades/Groups that respond quickly will have access to the units currently available and in stock, so you are encouraged to return payment ASAP.

6. Can my Brigade/Group order any more units?

There are no more subsidized units available, however you can place as many Tier 3 orders as you need. The Tier 3 program will remain open until the 30th June 2016. Tier 3 order forms are available from the VFBV website. Tier 3 are sold at cost price and are \$446.75 per unit + postage and handling.

7. How can I improve reception?

The Uniden antenna that ships with the device is designed for VHF and UHF frequencies. If a member is only using the unit for CFA communications – the purchase and fitting of an aftermarket antenna that is tuned specifically for only VHF will significantly improve scanner performance on CFA channels.

If buying an aftermarket antenna, one tuned for "VHF High Band", specifically between 160 – 170 Mhz will get the best performance. The antenna must also have the correct connector – either a SMA Male or BNC Male. Included with the unit comes a SMA-BNC adaptor, so users can attach an antenna of their choosing.

If you are purchasing an aftermarket antenna, you are advised to deal with a reputable and experienced dealer or manufacturer. Also note, that if you fit an antenna tuned specifically for VHF, it is likely to result in reduced performance when scanning other wireless bands such as UHF.

8. Can I fit an external antenna for vehicles using a scanner?

Yes. CFA has provided the following technical advice:

When using your scanner inside a vehicle cabin, connecting an external antenna will give a significant performance improvement over the flexible antenna on top of the unit.

The simplest installation solution is to use a VHF ¼ wave antenna on a magnetic mount base, similar to what is included in the CFA Transportable "Bag" Radio kit.

The CFA State Logistics Centre (SLC) has the necessary components available to fit an external antenna to your vehicle: –

| Component | CFA Stock Item Code | Description |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| Magnetic Mount Base | MBV | BASE – MAGNTEC, VHF OR CELL'R; c/w CABLE |
| VHF ¼ Wave Antenna | MAV14 | ANTENNA – WHIP, MOB, VHF, 1/4 WAVE SS, 470MM |
| BNC Connector | CCRG58 | CONNECTOR – COAX, RG58, BNC, PLUG, CRIMP |

The magnetic base needs the BNC connector fitted to the end of the coaxial cable.

The BNC connector available from SLC is a crimp type and correct crimp tools and care must be taken when fitting this connector to the cable. A poor connection will make the receive performance of the scanner worse, not better.

An experienced, reputable, radio technician / auto electrician / communications cable installer should be able to do this for you. Alternatively, you could source a solder type BNC plug and carefully fit this using a suitable soldering station.

The SMA-BNC adaptor in the scanner kit screws on to the top of the scanner. The external antenna cable with the BNC fitting will then attach to the scanner.

Using the VHF ¼ wave antenna on a magnetic mount base will allow easy installation on a wide range of vehicles with the added bonus that the antenna can be moved between vehicles with the scanner. It could even be placed on a steel shed roof or fabricated mounting bracket.

Note, using an external VHF antenna as described above will significantly improve scanner performance on VHF CFA channels, however performance on 27MHz and UHF CB channels will not be optimum. Please source a wideband scanner antenna such as a 'discone' for best performance across these additional bands.