

Firmware version 3.00.14 now provides the following features. While this version has been tested to some degree, there are still bugs in its operation, particularly with regard to the new Brandmeister related contact features. We will continue to work on corrections and improvements to these in the coming weeks.

Front Panel Programming

This feature provides front panel programming access to the same menu sets that are provided in the CPS, and follow the order of the programming software through the sub-menus. We have tested most of the General Settings selections, along with Digital and Analog channel modification. We suggest that users create a few generic digital and analog channels and enter them into a custom Zone for field programming and changes. The creation of new channels and zones and the addition of channels to existing zones is not yet supported. The programming feature is accessed via a programmed button set to use the Advanced Features selection for that button. Selections are made via numeric entry of the menu items, the top orange button saves the selection, and multiple presses of the zero key exits out. SK1 can be used to exit out of a menu without making changes. The user must back out of the menu selections completely until the radio reboots for all programmed information to be properly saved into memory.

Temporary TX Contact Changes

This feature allows users to temporarily change the TX Contact for a channel to a new group or private call. The channel reverts back to the programmed TX Contact after the channel is changed or the radio is turned off. The change is held in memory and used for all TX on that channel until it is changed. The feature is accessed by the Menu Key (O) > Contacts > scroll left once to 'Cha Contact' and press the OK key (O) again. The default is a new Group Call ID, but pressing the # key will switch this to a Private Call ID. You must know the call ID (Group or Private) that you wish to use as the TX Contact. Searching or scrolling through the contacts list is not currently supported. After entering the ID number, press the OK key once more to save the new TX Contact. Pressing the PTT will now transmit on that channel to the new TX ID and hold that ID until it is changed.

Digital Monitor Mode and Digital Auto Reply Info Lock

This feature is currently known to be a bit buggy, but please try it and let us know your experiences. The user must program two buttons to access this feature. The new Digital Monitor Mode selection places the radio into a capture state for Time Slot, Color Code, and Talk Group ID information. Set your radio to a channel on a local repeater and activate the Digital Monitor Mode. When a signal is heard that you want to respond to, press the button programmed for Digital Auto Reply Info Lock. The radio will display that the information has been locked. The channel is now temporarily programmed with the corresponding TS, CC, and TG ID information and will TX back to the captured talk group. Early reports have indicated that occasionally the data will be set as a private call, and that a quick reset can clear this up. Changing channels or turning the radio off will reset the channel to its programmed data.

We are working on a more comprehensive manual for these features, along with fixes for the known bugs. We are also working to get a comparable version of firmware available for the CS800 radios.