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AUXILIARY POWERED SPEAKERPHONES — WHY THEY ARE BETTER THAN LINE POWERED PHONES

Speakerphones have been around for over 100 years. At the turn of the Twentieth Century, it was common to see a speakerbox on a city street corner – connected to the local police station. That same technology continued, basically unchanged from the days of Alexander Graham Bell, until the introduction of the push-to-talk speakerphones of the last decade. These new phones, an answer to ADA requirements of the 1980's, however were still utilizing the same 48v line powered technology in use for over 100 years. Even Code Blue, which produced its first product in 1989, used line-powered technology. All speakerphones used line- powered phones and the industry, in general, was hampered by severe limitations caused by these phones. In 1997, Code Blue began the development of the most advanced speakerphone in the market today, the CB 3000. The CB 3000, which is more of a microprocessor based communication device than a speakerphone, was introduced to the market in January 1998. Since its introduction it has performed at over 99.9% reliability in the field, and its acoustic performance separates it from any other competitive speakerphone (see CB 3000 specifications for more details). From the outset, it was determined that the CB 3000 would be an auxiliary powered phone.

So why use an auxiliary powered phone? The phone's source of power falls into two categories, line power or external power. Line powered phones acquire their power from voltage supplied on the phone line. The benefit is that no additional power wire need be supplied. Communication and power is supplied on the one telephone wire. Another benefit is that this type of phone is cheaper to manufacture.

However, the amount of current the phone line is able to supply is very small. There is adequate power for a ringer and for communication but not much else. The lack of surplus current severely limits line-powered phones. Line powered phones do not have back up batteries because there is not enough power to recharge them. Line powered phones cannot take advantage of high quality speakers and microphones that draw a higher current. The audio presented from a line -powered speakerphone and the microphone sensitivity are effective over very short distances because the power is not available to amplify the signals. This is why volume adjustments seem ineffective. Another disadvantage is the long length of the wire from the CO or switch. Resistance in the wire reduces the power over distance. The power loss over as little as 1,500 feet could be enough to cause poor operating performance or not allow the phone to work at all.

Externally powered phones, like the CB 3000, do not suffer from these limitations. In fact the opposite is true. The CB 3000 phone has back up batteries, uses very high quality speakers and microphones, and is not limited by the distance from the switch. The CB 3000 can also power an additional, internally mounted receiver, to facilitate remote phone activation integrated with the transmission of data, (something line powered phones cannot do). The CB 3000 is the first choice for any security minded customer.

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