



**REPUBLIC OF  
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**  
**MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR**

**Marine Notice**

**No. 4-033-5**

**Rev. Dec/2022**

**TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF  
MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

**SUBJECT: Programming, Testing, and Disposition of Satellite EPIRBs and EPRDs**

- References:**
- (a) **SOLAS**, *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, Consolidated Edition 2020*
  - (b) **IMO Circular** [MSC.1/Circ.1594](#), *Amendments to the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual*, issued 25 May 2018
  - (c) **IMO Circular** [MSC.1/Circ.1040/Rev.2](#), *Guidelines on annual testing of Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs)*, issued 18 Oct 2021; and as complemented by **IMO Circular** [MSC.1/Circ.1123](#), *Guidelines on annual testing of L-band satellite EPIRBs*, issued 26 May 2004
  - (d) **COSPAS-SARSAT** [Guidelines on 406 MHz Beacon Coding, Registration and Type Approval](#)
  - (e) **Radio Regulations - Volume 4**, Edition of 2020 - [Recommendation ITU-R M.585-8](#), *Assignment and use of identities in the maritime mobile service*
  - (f) [Handbook of Beacon Regulations](#), COSPAS-SARSAT S.007 Issue 2 – Revision 3 March 2022

**PURPOSE:**

This Notice contains the frequency and unique identification code assigned to satellite Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) for vessels, and Emergency Personal Radio Devices (EPRDs), such as Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs), designed for individuals in distress.

This Notice supersedes Rev. 12/14. It has been updated to include PLBs and a national requirement that EPIRBs and EPRDs are properly disposed of to avoid false alerts.

**APPLICABILITY:**

This Notice applies to all Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)-flagged vessels outfitted with EPIRBs and EPRDs.

## REQUIREMENTS:

### 1.0 General

- 1.1 EPIRB and EPRDs,<sup>1</sup> including PLBs, that have a direct link to an RMI-flagged ship must be registered with the Administrator.
- 1.2 The RMI's Maritime Identification Digits (MID) are 538, which must precede a vessels' MMSI or unique radio call sign in all EPIRB related messages.<sup>2</sup>

### 2.0 EPIRB and EPRD Programming

- 2.1 Shipowners or operators must ensure that the satellite EPIRB and EPRD suppliers have appropriately programmed the units onboard RMI-flagged vessels as follows:
  - .1 EPIRBs' 15-digit Hex-ID must be programmed to decode to either the MMSI number or call-sign on the COSPAS-SARSAT website; and
  - .2 PLBs that are permanently part of a vessel's inventory must be programmed to decode with the vessel's MMSI on the COSPAS-SARSAT website.
- 2.2 When a vessel's EPIRBs or EPRDs, including permanent inventory PLBs, are relocated:
  - .1 from one RMI-flagged vessel to another RMI-flagged vessel, the Administrator must be notified of the relocation at [radio@register-iri.com](mailto:radio@register-iri.com);
  - .2 from any RMI-flagged vessel to a foreign-flagged vessel, they must be reprogrammed; and
  - .3 to be taken out of service or for vessel scrapping, they must be properly disposed of, see §4.0 below.
- 2.3 If a vessel changes its flag, the shipowner must inform the Administrator by contacting [radio@register-iri.com](mailto:radio@register-iri.com) to ensure that the ship station database of the [Maritime Mobile Access and Retrieval System](#) is appropriately updated.

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<sup>1</sup> Per [ITU-R M.585-8](#), Annex 2, section 2.2. See also the [Handbook of Beacon Regulations](#), §1.5.

<sup>2</sup> All MIDs are assigned by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The MIDs table is [here](#).

### **3.0 EPIRB Testing**

- 3.1 To ensure that the EPIRBs are transmitting the correct identification number on the correct frequency, an annual test must be conducted by a qualified technician, in accordance with SOLAS Chapter IV/15.9.1. The corresponding test certificate that authenticates the test results must be attached to the EPIRB.
- 3.2 Refer to IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1040/Rev.2](#) for guidance on the annual tests.

### **4.0 EPIRB and EPRD Disposal<sup>3</sup>**

- 4.1 EPIRBs and EPRDs, including PLBs, must be properly disposed of to avoid false alerts and danger to the environment and human life. If there are manufacturer instructions for disposal, they should be followed. For information on the disposal of old beacons and batteries, use [this link](#).
- 4.2 For registration or disposal questions, contact the Administrator: [radio@register-iri.com](mailto:radio@register-iri.com).

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<sup>3</sup> This is an RMI national requirement.