



**REPUBLIC OF  
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

**MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR**

**Marine Notice**

**No. 4-033-5**

**Rev. May/2025**

**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 2024*
  - (b) **IMO Circular** [MSC.1/Circ.1686](#), *Amendments to the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual*, issued 27 January 2025
  - (c) **IMO Circular** [MSC.1/Circ.1594](#), *Amendments to the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual*, issued 25 May 2018
  - (d) **IMO Circular** [MSC.1/Circ.1210/Rev.1](#), *Guidance on the COSPAS-SARSAT International 406 MHz Beacon Registration Database*, issued 21 November 2014
  - (e) **IMO Circular** [MSC.1/Circ.1040/Rev.2](#), *Guidelines on annual testing of Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs)*, issued 18 October 2021
  - (f) **COSPAS-SARSAT Issue 3 – Revision 2**, [Guidelines on 406 MHz Beacon Coding, Registration and Type Approval](#), October 2023
  - (g) **COSPAS-SARSAT S.007 Issue 2 – Revision 4**, [Handbook of Beacon Regulations](#), October 2022
  - (h) **International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radio Regulations - Volume 4**, 2024 Edition - [Recommendation ITU-R M.585-9](#), *Assignment and use of identities in the maritime mobile service*

**PURPOSE**

This Marine Notice (MN) 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 MN supersedes Rev. Dec/2022. Section 5.0 has been added to provide the requirements for listing the EPIRB hexadecimal identifier (Hex-ID) and serial number on the Full-Term Ship Radio Station License and notifying the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) when changes are made to EPIRB arrangements.

## APPLICABILITY

This MN applies to all RMI-flagged vessels outfitted with EPIRBs and EPRDs.

## REQUIREMENTS

### 1.0 General

- 1.1 EPIRB<sup>1</sup> and EPRDs including PLBs, that have a direct link to an RMI-flagged vessel must be registered with the Administrator.
- 1.2 The RMI's Maritime Identification Digits (MIDs) are 538, which must precede a vessels' Maritime Mobile Service Identity (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:
  - 2.1.1 EPIRBs' 15-digit Hex-ID must be programmed to decode to either the MMSI number or call-sign on the COSPAS-SARSAT website; and
  - 2.1.2 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:
  - 2.2.1 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);
  - 2.2.2 from any RMI-flagged vessel to a foreign-flagged vessel, they must be reprogrammed; and
  - 2.2.3 to be taken out of service or for vessel scrapping, they must be properly disposed of (see §4.0, below).
- 2.3 When 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> See ITU-R [M.585-9](#), and the [Handbook of Beacon Regulations](#), §1.5.

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

### **3.0 EPIRB Testing**

- 3.1 Annual tests must be conducted by a qualified technician, in accordance with SOLAS chapter IV/15.9.1, to ensure that the EPIRBs are transmitting the correct identification number on the correct frequency.
- 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>**

EPIRBs and EPRDs, including PLBs, must be properly disposed of to avoid false alerts and danger to the environment and human life. Any manufacturer instructions available for proper disposal should be followed. Information on the disposal of old beacons and batteries can be found [here](#).

### **5.0 Full Term Ship Radio Station License: EPIRB Hex-ID and Serial Number listing**

- 5.1 Effective 1 June 2025, the EPIRB Hex-ID (Unique Identity Number (UIN)) and serial number of all EPIRB units in service onboard the vessel will be recorded on the Full-Term Ship Radio Station License.
- 5.2 These changes will be applied during Radio License renewal or amendment, at no additional cost other than the standard renewal or amendment fee.
- 5.3 Shipowners or operators must notify the Radio Service Area to amend the Radio License in the following cases:
  - 5.3.1 Replacement of an EPIRB (new Hex-ID);
  - 5.3.2 Replacement of an EPIRB (new serial number);
  - 5.3.3 Addition of a new EPIRB unit to the existing unit(s) onboard; and
  - 5.3.4 Removal of an EPIRB that is no longer in service.
- 5.4 Please contact the Administrator at [radio@register-iri.com](mailto:radio@register-iri.com) with any registration or disposal questions.

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