

Marine Notice No. 63 of 2013

*Notice to all Shipowners, Fishing Vessel Owners, Agents, Shipmasters, Skippers, Fishermen,
Yachtsmen and Seafarers*

GME EPIRB Safety Alert

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has been advised of potential GME EPIRB failures.

The following GME EPIRB models, manufactured in the 2005-2010 period, have been identified as being at risk of failure.

**GME MT400, GME MT401, GME MT406G, GME MT401FF, GME MT403/G and
GME MT403FF/FG**

Owners of all GME EPIRBs are advised to carry out immediate testing of their beacon as detailed in the annex to this notice.

For further information, please see the attached annex, which reproduces the safety alert on this matter, issued by GME.

Irish Maritime Administration,
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport,
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, Ireland.

11/11/2013

Encl. Annex

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, tel: +353-(0)1-678 3400.
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, tel: +353-(0)1-678 3418.
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Maritime Safety Directorate, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, Ireland.
email: marinenotices@dtas.ie or visit us at: www.dttas.ie

EPIRB PRECAUTIONARY SAFETY ALERT

DATE: NOVEMBER 4 2013
EFFECTIVE: IMMEDIATELY

BACKGROUND

Standard Communications Pty Ltd designs and manufactures a range of Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) that are marketed globally under the GME brand.

As a result of market place feedback Standard Communications Pty Ltd has become aware of a small number of instances where GME EPIRBs have failed the self test procedure. A consequence of such failure may mean the EPIRB will not operate in an emergency situation.

INVESTIGATION

Subsequent testing and investigation in the company's Sydney engineering laboratory, identified a microprocessor malfunction that effectively shuts the beacon down, hence the self test failure.

Detailed analysis has shown that the failures have occurred in EPIRBs manufactured in the 2005 – 2010 period; to date the overall failure rate remains low, never the less as a responsible supplier of safety at sea equipment, Standard Communications Pty Ltd has in consultation with National Maritime Authorities voluntarily elected to publish this precautionary safety alert.

MODELS IMPACTED

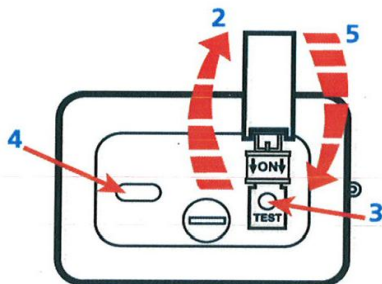
GME MT400, GME MT401, GME MT406G, GME MT401FF, GME MT403/G and GME MT403FF/FG

GME EPIRBs manufactured between January 2005 and June 2010 have been identified as being at risk.

None the less, **GME strongly recommends that all EPIRBs** are tested at regular intervals (approximately monthly or prior to an extended voyage).

ACTION REQUIRED

Owners of all GME EPIRBs are required to undertake an immediate test of their beacon using the following procedure:



1. Remove the beacon from the bracket. Keep the antenna well clear of metallic objects during testing.
2. Lift the cover marked 'LIFT'.
3. Briefly press then release the yellow 'TEST' button.
4. The unit will give a double beep and flash of the strobe light to show it is functioning correctly.
5. Close the switch cover and press firmly into place until it clicks.
6. Return the beacon into the bracket.

Self test instructions are printed on the beacon's front panel; they are also detailed in the owner's instruction booklet.

In the unlikely event of any beacon tested failing to produce a positive self test result, owners should immediately contact their point of purchase or the GME email hotline of mtfail@gme.net.au

CONTACT INFORMATION

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