



Marine Notice No. 41 of 2009

Amended: 22/11/2022

NOTICE TO ALL ELECTRONIC COMPANIES, EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS, SHIPOWNERS, FISHING VESSEL OWNERS, AGENTS, SHIPMASTERS, PASSENGER SHIP MASTERS, SKIPPERS, FISHERMEN, YACHTSMEN AND SEAFARERS

Coding and Servicing of 406MHz Satellite EPIRBs (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons)

The Marine Casualty Investigation Board in its report of the investigation into the loss of the fishing vessel MFV “DISCOVERY” made certain recommendations in relation to the coding and servicing of EPIRBs.

The Department of Transport wishes to advise persons engaged in the servicing and shore based maintenance of 406MHz Satellite EPIRBs that they should not under any circumstances attempt to programme or code a unit unless it is accompanied by a valid Ship Station Radio Licence or written notification from the Maritime Radio Affairs Unit of Department of Transport.

Programming, Registration and Licensing of EPIRB

1. EPIRBs must be programmed in accordance with the COSPAS-SARSAT Maritime User Protocol as follows; Maritime Identification Digit (MID) for Ireland which is “250” and the Radio Call Sign or the MMSI number of the vessel.
2. GPS EPIRBs must be programmed in accordance with the Maritime Location Protocol using either the MMSI number or the Radio Call Sign.
3. An EPIRB must be licensed in accordance with the requirements of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1926. The Ship Station Radio Licence covers the EPIRB.
4. **EPIRBs may be registered using the online Ship Radio Licence and EPIRB Registration system: [Irish Maritime Radio Licence System \(IMRAD\)](#).**

Further information from:

Marine Survey Office

Tel: 01-678 3400

Email: MSO@transport.gov.ie .

5. Confirmation of registration should be received within two weeks. If not, the owner should contact the EPIRB registry at the above address.

6. Correct programming and registration will ensure that the Search and Rescue (SAR) authorities have accurate and reliable information about a vessel in the event of an emergency or a false alert.

When changes are made in equipment, ownership, name, flag state, or other similar key information concerning a vessel, the owner must inform the EPIRB Registry immediately.

Director General
Maritime Safety Directorate
Department of Transport
Leeson Lane
Dublin 2

28 September 2009

Amended: 22/11/2022

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, email: MSO@transport.gov.ie
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, email:
MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Dept. of Transport, Maritime Safety Policy Division, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2,
D02 TR60, Ireland.
email: MarineNotices@transport.gov.ie or visit us at: www.gov.ie/transport