



TECHNICAL ALERT No. 14-03

GME EPIRB's- EPIRB Self-Test Defect.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. A new Safety Alert has been issued by Standard Communications Pty Ltd.
- 1.2. The Bahamas Maritime Authority wishes to bring the information referenced in Paragraph 1.1 to the attention of interested parties¹.

2. EPIRB Self-Test Defect

- 2.1. Standard Communications Pty Ltd manufacture a series of EPIRB's under the GME Brand.
- 2.2. Standard Communications have become aware of a number of instances where GME EPIRBS have failed the self-test procedure. Such a failure may mean the EPIRB will not operate in an emergency situation.
- 2.3. The Safety Alert issued by Standard Communications Pty Ltd is appended to this Technical Alert.

3. Validity

- 3.1. This alert is valid until further notice.

4. Revision History

Rev.0 (18 March 2014) – First issue

¹ This Technical Alert is provided by the Bahamas Maritime Authority with the aim of highlighting incidents, lessons learnt and to increase awareness, which may help avoid similar incidents occurring elsewhere. Any queries on the content of the information provided should be referred to the party providing the information.

Appendix – EPIRB Precautionary Safety Alert dated 4th November 2013.



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.

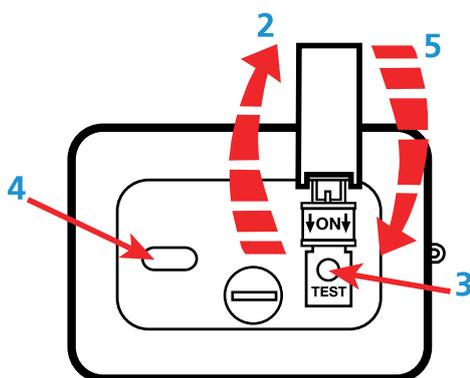
MODELS IMPACTED

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

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