
Unavailability of Emergency Position Indication Radio Beacon (EPIRB)

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Technical Alert is issued by the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) to describe the BMA position on standards to be applied to new Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs).

2. Introduction

- 2.1. International Maritime Organization (IMO) resolution [MSC.471\(101\)](#) *Performance Standards for Float-Free Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) Operating on 406 MHz* recommends that float-free EPIRBs operating on the 406MHz frequency, forming part of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), comply with performance and type approval standards as follows:
- i. if installed **on or after 1 July 2022**, conform to performance standards and type-approval standards not inferior to those specified in the annex to [MSC.407\(101\)](#);
 - ii. if installed **before 1 July 2022**, conform to performance standards not inferior to those specified in the annex to resolution [A.810\(19\)](#), as amended by resolutions [MSC.56\(66\)](#) and [MSC.120\(74\)](#), and type-approval standards not inferior to those specified in resolution [A.696\(17\)](#)

3. Text

- 3.1. The BMA has been made aware of difficulties in obtaining EPIRBs that comply with resolution [MSC.471\(101\)](#).
- 3.2. Therefore, until 31 December 2023, the BMA advises that:
- i. Existing EPIRBs complying with resolution A.810(19), installed before 1 July 2022, may continue to be used by replacing the battery prior to its expiry date until the EPIRB can no longer be maintained and requires renewal.
 - ii. If an MSC.471(101) compliant EPIRB is not available for installation after 1 July 2022, an A. 810(19) compliant EPIRB may be installed and used until an MSC. 471(101) compliant EPIRB becomes available. This is allowed until 31 December 2023

provided that written evidence of non-availability of an MSC.471(101) compliant EPIRB is available on board.

- iii. Non-convention vessels may install A.810(19) or MSC .471(101) compliant EPIRBs, however it is recommended that MSC.471(101) compliant EPIRBs are used where available.

4. Validity

- 4.1. This Technical Alert is valid until 31 December 2023.

5. Revisions

- 5.1. Revised text in paragraph 3.2.iii for clarity.