

Circular 9 / 2008

To: Ship Owners and/or Operators, Deputy Registrars, Surveyors and Other Interested Parties

Subject: 406 EPIRB Registration Deadline

Date: 13 November 2008

Application

This circular applies to all vessels with an Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB).

About EPIRBs

Distress beacons are designed to locate a vessel's position and identity and call for help should she run into trouble.

Beacons operating at 121.5 and 243 MHz will soon be obsolete and must be replaced with a 406 MHz beacon.

The satellite system used to detect these will cease operation from 1 February 2009. Therefore 406 MHz EPIRBs must be correctly programmed and registered by that date.

Programming and Registration

A vessel flagged in Cook Islands must have the country prefix 518 followed by the beacon serial number programmed into its EPIRB. This new hexadecimal ID should be displayed on the outside of the EPIRB and the old one removed.

The registration of 406 MHz EPIRB beacons for Cooks Islands flagged vessels, along with maintenance of the database, is being handled by the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ). This is regardless of where the vessel is trading.

Required Action by Owners/Operators

1. Ensure vessel's EPIRB is a 406 MHz beacon.
2. Ensure EPIRB hexadecimal number is programmed correctly, bearing the 518 Cook Islands prefix and the beacon serial number. This new ID must be displayed on the outside of the EPIRB
3. Use the online registration form set up by RCCNZ to register your beacon: <http://www.beacons.org.nz/406-Registration.aspx>. The process is quick, simple and free of charge.
4. Keep EPIRB information current by using the online form or contacting RCCNZ (406registry@maritimenz.govt.nz) with any updates.

For further information or clarification, visit the RCCNZ beacons website at <http://www.beacons.org.nz> or contact the Registrar of Ships:

fleet@maritimecookislands.com Phone: +682 23 848 or Fax: +682 23 846.