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FC Number : 03-2022

SUBJECT : EPIRB Performance Standards and Type Approval

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Dear Captains and Chief Officers,

Please find hereunder guidance with regards to new regulations coming into force for EPIRBS installed on or after 1 July 2022.

BACKGROUND

A new generation EPIRBS (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) has recently become available. Where the first generation uses low-altitude and geostationary satellites, the second generation uses the medium altitude satellites that are part of the GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System), thus achieving both higher accuracy and better coverage. The Maritime Safety Committee has issued Resolution MSC 471(101) Annex 24, adopting recommendations with regards to (1) performance standards and (2) type-approval of free-floating EPIRBS operating on 406 MHz, so as to include this new generation of EPIRBS. See included IMO document.

REGULATIONS

Any EPIRBS installed before 1 July 2022 shall have to continue to comply with the performance standards described in the Annex of Resolution A.810(19), and with the type-approval standards set out in Resolution A.696(17).

Any EPIRBS installed on or after 1 July 2022 shall conform to the performance standards and type-approval standards specified in the Annex of Resolution MSC.471(101).

SUMMARY OF NEW REQUIREMENTS

1. Performance Standards

- In addition to the existing requirements set out in the old resolutions, EPIRBS installed on or after 1 July 2022 should:
 - be provided with a GNSS receiver (technical details in MSC 471(101) Annex 24 Part A section 4)
 - have an indicator for signal reception (technical details in MSC 471(101) Annex 24 Part A section 2)
 - be provided with an AIS (Automatic Identification System) locating signal (technical details in MSC 471(101) Annex 24 Part B section 5)



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include an identification code in all 406 MHz messages in the correct format (technical details in MSC 471(101) Annex 24 Part B section 3)

2. Type Approval

- Any EPIRB installed on or after 1 July 2022 will need a Cospas-Sarsat Type Approval Certificate, to confirm it meets the performance standards set out in the new resolution MSC 471(101) Annex 24.

Action required from your side

- For EPIRBs that are installed on or after 1 July 2022, please make sure that you receive a Cospas-Sarsat Type Approval Certificate to confirm its compliance with the new performance standards.
- EPIRBs can be registered via Cospas-Sarsat, which is the International Beacon Registration Database (IBRD). All country contacts are available and information for registration is provided via: <https://406registration.com>
- There is no requirement for existing EPIRBs to be replaced with the new type from 1 July 2022, however we would like to bring your attention to the fact that the new type of EPIRB has increased accuracy and increased coverage.

In case of any questions, please contact your designated Yacht Manager.

Kind Regards,

Tom Vannieuwenhuyse