

South African Maritime Safety Authority



Marine Notice No. 14 of 2009

Cessation of satellite processing of 121.5 MHz Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) analogue signals.

TO REGIONAL MANAGERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, SURVEYORS, MRCC, SASAR, TELKOM SA, SHIPOWNERS AND OPERATORS, SMALL VESSEL OPERATORS, AND OTHER INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

Summary

This marine notice serves to advise affected parties of the cessation of satellite processing of 121.5 MHz EPIRB

The COSPAS-SARSAT Council has taken a decision to cease the satellite processing of 121.5 MHz analogue signals, effective from 1 February 2009.

As from 1 February 2009 the following vessels:

- category A vessels in terms of Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessel Safety) Regulations 2007 as amended;
- vessels prescribed under regulation 3 of the Merchant Shipping (Radio Installations) Regulations 2002; and
- vessels that are voluntary fitted with 121,5 MHz EPIRB

are required to have EPIRB as provided for under the Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessel Safety) Regulations, 2007 as amended and Merchant Shipping (Radio Installations) Regulations 2002, respectively. This must be a 406 MHz EPIRB capable of operating in the COSPAS-SARSAT system. The EPIRB required under the Merchant Shipping (Radio Installations) Regulations 2002 must comply with the International Maritime Organization performance standards as listed in SAMSА Marine Notice 20 of 2008.

Vessels that are voluntary fitted with a 121,5 MHz EPIRB must replace it with a 406 MHz EPIRB or remove it.

It should be noted that reference to 121,5 MHz will still be seen on the casing of the 406 MHz EPIRB. This is purely for the use of direction finding by Search and Rescue aircraft and not as a distress alert signal.

The 406 MHz EPIRB must be programmed with a Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) which is issued by the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA).

In terms of the Merchant Shipping (EPIRB Registration) Regulations 2002, EPIRB is required to be registered by the Operator or Master of the vessel. The registration form must be lodged with the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) immediately after purchase.

Contact details for MRCC are as follows:

Telephone Number – 021-938 3300

Fax Number – 021-938 3309

PO Box 532

Parow

7500

163 Tygerberg Park

H. Verwoerd Drive

Platteklouf

Cape Town

A redundant 121,5 MHz EPIRB may be handed in to your nearest SAMSA Port Office for environmentally friendly and safe disposal.

23 March 2009

SM6/5/2/1

Issued by and obtainable from:

The South African Maritime Safety Authority

161 Lynnwood Road

Brooklyn, Pretoria

PO Box 13186

Hatfield 0028

Tel: +27 12 366 2600

Fax: +27 12 366 2601

E-mail: marinenotices@samsa.org.za

Web Site : www.samsa.org.za