



Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)

Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons, commonly referred to as EPIRB's, are buoyant radio distress beacons that instantaneously send a signal, which is detected by satellites and relayed to rescue coordination centres letting them know that the owner is in grave and imminent danger. An EPIRB can be manually activated, or automatically activated with the use of a hydrostatic release (float free) mechanism. Vessels under eight metres or vessels fishing inside 25 miles (although it is recommended) are not required to carry an EPIRB. Currently, an EPIRB is required on all vessels over 8 metres fishing outside 25 miles.



Purchasing and Registering a 406 EPIRB

There are various EPIRB models available for use on your vessel. Researching models and verifying the country code can have an impact on response times in the event of an emergency. A Canadian registered 406 beacon is an approved, official alerting device. When purchasing the 406 beacon, check to ensure it has a Canadian country code.

Once you have purchased an emergency beacon, it is up to you to register it in a timely manner before using it at sea. Registering ensures that in the event of an emergency, SAR authorities can retrieve crucial information about you, your vessel, and your emergency contacts. Accurate registration information permits search and rescue personnel to provide assistance as quickly as possible. Should your registered beacon ever be activated, search and rescue teams will know who you are, and the contacts provided may be able to supply important information about you and your specific travel plans. In the absence of this information, it may take longer for a search and rescue operation to begin.

All Canadian coded EPIRBs must be registered with the Canadian Beacon Registry at www.cbr-rbc.ca/cbr/ or by calling 1-877-406-7671 (toll free). Registering a beacon with Canadian Beacon Registry is free of charge. Canadian coded beacons cannot be registered elsewhere and your registration does not expire. This is important when change of ownership occurs. The original owner must notify the authorities and de-register the beacon. The new owner should not depend on the previous owner and contact the registry regardless.

Beacon Disposal

Remember, your registration does not expire. Should you decide to dispose of your beacon, proper disposal is essential in order to avoid unnecessary responses from JRCC. The JRCC treats all signals as distress alerts and responds accordingly. When JRCC resources are used on false alerts, response times for legitimate incidents may be impacted. All batteries should be removed prior to disposal.