NAURU
MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

EMERGENCY POSITION INDICATING RADIO BEACONS (EPIRBs)
(NMA_C7.2018.Rev.0)

PURPOSE:

To provide the requirements for the registration, servicing and maintenance of EPIRBs for Nauru-registered vessels.

REFERENCE:

a) IMO MSC.1/Circ.1210/Rev.1 – Guidance on the Cospas-Sarsat International 406 MHz Beacon Registration Database.

APPLICATION:

EPIRBs are required for the following Nauru-registered vessels:
1) All passenger vessels;
2) All commercial yachts; and
3) All commercial vessels above 300GT

Nauru-registered vessels that are not listed above are also recommended to voluntarily carry EPIRBs.

CONTENTS:

1) General

    a) Under the Cospas-Sarsat international satellite-aided tracking system, polar orbiting satellites are able to detect distress signals from a 406 MHz beacon.

    b) The 406MHz beacon comes in two basic types: those that provide an encoded GPS (Global Positioning Systemt) location and those that do not. The satellite system can calculate a beacon's location, but locating a distress site is usually much faster if the beacon signal provides a GPS location.

    c) A 406-MHz beacon designed for use on marine vessels is called an EPIRB (also known as a distress radio beacon or emergency beacon) and it can be activated in a life-threatening emergency to summon assistance from SAR (Search And Rescue) authorities.

    d) When a distress beacon is activated, it transmits a signal that can be detected by satellites as they orbit the earth and "listen" for any activated beacons with the purpose to transmit the beacon signals to ground stations that compute their positions and report to SAR authorities.

    e) Float-free EPIRBs are held in a bracket and fitted with a hydrostatic release that is water activated, deploying the beacon automatically if the vessel sinks. If the vessel continues to float, then the EPIRB can be manually deployed where a distress situation exists.

    f) In a distress situation, it is important that a beacon is NOT switched off once it has been activated until rescue has commenced or you are advised to do so by the SAR authority.

g) If an EPRIB has been activated inadvertently, the first and foremost action required would be to SWITCH OFF the EPIRB as quickly as possible to avoid the activation of SAR operations.

2) **Mandatory Registration of EPIRBs on the IBRD (International 406 MHz Beacon Registration Database)**

a) The International Cospas-Sarsat Programme processes 406 MHz EPIRB alerts and routes them to the identified SAR authorities. It also operates the IBRD which has been in operation since January 2006.

b) As Nauru does not maintain a National Database for registration of beacons, the Administration requires all beacon owners to register directly in the IBRD.

c) The IBRD is hosted on the internet at www.406registration.com (with online help capabilities) and provides a facility to allow beacon owners to directly register their beacons to ensure that it is available to SAR authorities worldwide on a 24-hours-per-day, seven-days-per-week basi**s.** This registration facility is available free of charge.

d) Beacon registrations allowed on the IBRD only will be accepted via the online facilities of www.406registration.com and, under no circumstances can registrations be accepted in paper format nor by telephone, facsimile or any other communication facilities.

e) For more information, please visit the Beacon FAQ on the Cospas-Sarsat website at: http://www.cospas-sarsat.int/en/beacon-ownership/beacon-registration-faq

f) It is the intention of the Administration to have all EPIRBs fitted on Nauru-registered vessels registered on the IBRD within the shortest time possible so that there will be a comprehensive record available to all SAR authorities in the event that a beacon is activated so that the seafarers at risk can be offered the best chance of rescue.

g) Once a beacon is registered, the ship owner / manager should submit a copy of the registered particulars to this Administration (email: flag@naurumaritime.com):

   i) For Single Delivery Voyage (SDV) Registrations – within one (1) week of the issuance of the vessel's Certificate of Registry; and
   ii) For Normal / Bareboat Charter In Registrations – within one (1) week of the issuance of the vessel's Certificate of Registry and in any case before a vessel's registration can be converted to Permanent status; and at the same time print out a copy for placement on board the vessel so that surveyors and inspectors may easily verify the beacon registry and its particulars.

3) **Guidance on Registration of EPIRBs on the IBRD**

a) For **NEWLY PURCHASED** Beacons (**Single Beacon registration**):

   i) Go to: www.406registration.com
   ii) On the home page under the header REGISTER A NEW BEACON, please select "I have one beacon to register".
   iii) Enter the 15 digit hexadecimal ID number indicated on the beacon label or documentation provided by the manufacturer. For validation purposes, you must enter the same beacon ID again in the box below. Some beacon manufacturers utilize a 5 digit checksum code. If a checksum code is provided, then this code should be entered to provide an additional validation of the Beacon ID.

iv) Select NEXT to continue and read and accept the Notice on the next page.

v) Beacon registration is a five step process and the items marked with an asterisk (*) on each of input pages in are required fields which must be completed.

vi) STEP 1 – Account Information:

    (1) Choose a password containing at least 8 alphanumeric characters

    (2) Select a security question and type in its answer.

    (3) Select NEXT to view the next page and enter more details.

vii) STEP 2 – Owner / Operator Information.

viii) STEP 3 – Vessel Information:

    (1) Vehicle Type (please input type of vessel)

    (2) Vehicle Name (please input vessel's name)

    (3) MMSI

    (4) Call Sign

    (5) Vehicle Registration Number (please input vessel's Official Number)

ix) 3.1.9. STEP 4 – EPIRB Information.

x) STEP 5 – 24 hour Emergency Contact Information.

xi) On completion of all 5 pages, click SAVE and a window will pop-up confirming successful registration. If you have entered a valid email address, you will also receive a confirmation email.

xii) Although only items marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory fields, ship owners / operators are strongly recommended to fill in as many fields as possible because the more information you provide, the better SAR authorities can assist you in the event of a distress. For example, the *Additional Data* field can be used to provide information on specific voyage plans and can be regularly updated.

b) For **NEWLY PURCHASED** Beacons (**Multiple Beacon registration**):

i) Go to: www.406registration.com

ii) On the home page under the header REGISTER A NEW BEACON, please select "I have many beacons to register".

iii) Create an account to associate the multiple beacons.

iv) Follow through STEP 1 to 5 as described in Section 2.7.6 to 2.7.10.

v) To input new beacons, click the REGISTRATION tab.

c) For **EXISITNG** Beacons, they should be registered on the IBRD at the earliest opportunity in accordance to the sections 3.1 and 3.2 above.

d) During **SALE OF A VESSEL or CHANGE OF FLAG**, the ship owner / manager should delete or amend the information registered on the IBRD accordingly.

e) Owners should use the account created during the registration of the beacon(s) on the IBRD to update the information registered whenever there is a change in the beacon particulars, the vessel's particulars or the emergency contact details so that the information on the IBRD is always up to date.

4) <u>Maintenance and Testing Requirements of EPIRBs</u>

a) The maintenance requirements are to be complied with in accordance to SOLAS Chapter IV Reg 15.9.

b) Each EPIRB must be tested annually by an authorised shore based service provider for all aspects of operational efficiency with an emphasis on checking emission operational frequencies, coding, and registration.

c) The annual test should include:
   i) Checking the position and mounting for float-free operation;
   ii) Verifying the presence of a firmly attached lanyard in good condition, neatly stowed and not attached to the vessel or the mounting bracket;
   iii) A visual inspection for defects;
   iv) A self-test routine;
   v) A check that the EPIRB identification (15 digit HEX ID) and other information is clearly marked on the outside of the unit;
   vi) Decoding the transmitted signal and establishing that the decoded HEX ID information is identical to the information and identification marked on the beacon;
   vii) Checking the registration;
   viii) Checking the battery expiry date;
   ix) Checking the hydrostatic release expiry date;
   x) Checking the emission in the 406 MHz band using self-test mode (or an appropriate device to avoid transmission of a distress call);
   xi) Checking that the EPIRB has been maintained (if due) by an approved shore based service provider;
   xii) Remounting the beacon properly in its bracket; and
   xiii) Verifying the presence of operating instructions.

d) All applicable Nauru-registered vessels should have on board annual test inspection certificate for each EPIRB and, where appropriate, the certificate showing the last five (5) yearly shore maintenance and service. These documents may be requested by PSC and will be requested by RO surveyor completing the annual Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate survey.

For further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Administration at: flag@naurumaritime.com.