

NOTICE



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NEW 2011 TRANSPAC EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS

The Coast Guard has issued a marine safety alert that Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon, (EPIRB) and/or personal locator beacon (PLB) may transmit incorrect information and delay identification of a vessel impeding subsequent rescue efforts in the event of an emergency.

The Coast Guard stresses the importance of ensuring that an EPIRB or PLB is properly registered with the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov. Improper registration prevents the identification of the vessel's name, home port, nature of emergency, and/or contact information from being forwarded to search and rescue personnel delaying rescue efforts.

NOAA is contacting all owners/operators of EPIRB's and PLB's registered in the U.S., and the National Beacon Registration Database, by email or regular mail, have requested they take the following steps:

1. Confirm the current EPIRB and/or PLB registrations are correct. Crosscheck that the UIN printed on the EPIRB or PLB matches the UIN printed on the proof of registration decal sent out by NOAA.
2. Update EPIRB and/or PLB registrations if there are any changes to the vessel's information, owner/operator information, emergency contact information, or if the registration information has expired. **Registration data must be renewed every two years.**
3. Registered new or unregistered EPIRB and PLB's with NOAA. This can be done online at: www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov.

The Coast Guard also warns of unapproved EPIRB batteries. It is recommended that all EPIRB and PLB's use manufacturer sanctioned service, or your emergency beacon could stop working.

Contact the manufacturer of your units for servicing and/or the service center that will have the proper replacement batteries, if necessary.

All EPIRB's and PLB's must be in compliance with Coast Guard regulations, **and** manufacturer's instructions for care and service. Manufacturers typically specify that battery replacements be done only by the manufacturer or manufacturer's approved service center. Any modification or changes to an EPIRB or PLB must be made in accordance with the manufacturer. The Coast Guard states the use of alternative replacement parts or batteries is prohibited and may prevent the device from meeting life saving requirements.

According to the Coast Guard, EPIRB and PLB's owners and service affiliates must be aware of the potential for equipment failure stemming from any EPIRB and/or PLB modification or unauthorized battery replacement.

The Coast Guard reminds boaters that registration is required by federal regulations. This item will be inspected by the safety inspector for compliance. You will need to present proof of proper batteries, and proof any changes were made by an authorized service center.