



**Changes in Requirements for Ships Subject to SOLAS, Chapter IV, Concerning the Maintenance of EPIRB's**

**MARINE NOTICE NO. 25 OF 2006**

*Attention: Shipping companies, shipowners, ship operators, shipmasters, shore based maintenance providers, equipment manufacturers, recognised organisations and all parties concerned.*

**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this notice is to specify the changes in requirements for ships subject to SOLAS Chapter IV concerning the maintenance of EPIRBs, which came into force 1 July 2006.

The Maritime Safety Committee of the IMO has approved Guidelines for shore-based maintenance of satellite EPIRB's. The purpose of these guidelines is to establish standardized procedures and minimum levels of service for the testing and maintenance of satellite EPIRBs to ensure maximum reliability whilst minimizing the risk of false distress alerts.

**SOLAS CHAPTER IV REGULATION 15 – Maintenance requirements**

The existing text of paragraph 9 of the above regulation is replaced by the following:

Satellite EPIRBs shall be;

1. annually tested for all aspects of operational efficiency, with special emphasis on checking the emission on operational frequencies, coding and registration, at intervals as specified below:
  - (a) on passenger ships, within 3 months before the expiry date of the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate; and
  - (b) on cargo ships, within 3 months before the expiry date, or 3 months before or after the anniversary date, of the Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate.

The test may be conducted on board the ship or at an approved testing station; and

2. subject to maintenance at intervals not exceeding five years, to be performed at an approved shore-based maintenance facility.

## **SHORE BASED MAINTENANCE**

Shore based maintenance of satellite EPIRBs shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of MSC Circular 1039 at an interval not exceeding 5 years or when the battery replacement is due.

Service organisations carrying out shore based maintenance for EPIRBs on Irish vessels are to be acceptable to the Irish Department of Transport.

### Contact Details

Maritime Radio Affairs Unit, Maritime Safety Directorate, Department of Transport,  
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The Guidelines for shore-based maintenance of satellite EPIRBs (MSC Circular 1039) and the requirements for annual testing (MSC Circular 1040) are attached to this notice.

For advice on registration and care of EPIRB's please refer to Marine Notice No. 8 of 2006.

Director General,  
Maritime Safety Directorate,  
Department of Transport,  
Leeson Lane,  
Dublin 2.

06 November 2006

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice please contact  
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