



Office of
Deputy Commissioner
of Maritime Affairs

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

Marine Notice

RAD-009
Rev. 07/20

TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, AGENTS AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

SUBJECT: Radio Equipment - Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)

Reference: (a) **Maritime Regulation 2.35**
(b) **SOLAS 1978, as amended, Chapter III**
(c) **2009, 1989 and 1979 MODU Codes Chapters 10 and 11**

Supersedes: Marine Notice SAF-001, dated 06/12

PURPOSE:

This Notice provides guidance interpretation and clarification of the Liberian Administration's policy regarding EPIRB maintenance aboard Liberian Flag vessels.

APPLICABILITY:

This Notice applies to Owners, Masters, Ship Officers and authorized Recognized Organization (RO) (the vessel's Classification Society which has been recognized and authorized to act on behalf of the Liberian Administration) and addresses several SOLAS and MODU Code requirements which have been established by the Office of the Deputy Commissioner.

REQUIREMENTS:

- 1.0** Every ship shall be provided with a satellite emergency position-indicating radio beacon (satellite EPIRB) which shall be:
 - 1.1 capable of transmitting a distress alert through the polar orbiting satellite service operating in the 406 MHz band;
 - 1.2 installed in an easily accessible position;
 - 1.3 ready to be manually released and capable of being carried by one person into a survival craft;
 - 1.4 capable of floating free if the ship sinks and of being automatically activated when afloat; and
 - 1.5 capable of being activated manually.
- 2.0** Ships engaged on voyages exclusively in sea area A1 may carry, in lieu of the satellite EPIRB required by sub-paragraph 1.1 above, an EPIRB capable of transmitting a distress

alert using DSC on VHF channel 70 and providing for locating by means of a radar transponder operating in the 9 GHz band.

3.0 EPIRB Maintenance Requirements

Satellite EPIRBS shall be:

- .1 annually tested for all aspects of operational efficiency, with a special emphasis on checking the emission on operational frequencies, coding and registration, at intervals as specified below:
 - .1 on passenger ships, within three months before the expiry date of the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate; and
 - .2 on cargo ships, within three months before the expiry date, or three months before or after the anniversary date of the Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate.
- .2 subject to maintenance at intervals not exceeding five years, to be performed at an approved shore-based maintenance facility.”

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