
EPIRBs

Registration
& Disposal of

Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs)

EPIRBs are a lifeline to survival in the event of an accident at sea. Upon receiving notification of an EPIRB activation, the Search & Rescue (SAR) system and resources are thrown into action.

In recent months, the Canadian SAR system has been activated unnecessarily due to improper disposal of EPIRBs, as well, incorrect registration information has caused difficulties in locating emergency contacts.

Registration of your EPIRB

The Canadian Coast Guard recommends that EPIRBs be properly registered. Upon purchasing an EPIRB the owner is responsible for the proper registration of the beacon and the updating of the information, including emergency contacts. This is also true when purchasing a vessel that already has an EPIRB onboard. SAR coordinators use the registration information to determine the course of action required for the response to the distress signal. Valuable time is often lost tracking information that should be available within minutes. Knowing the name of the vessel and the emergency contact information allows the coordinator an opportunity to quickly establish the location and degree of urgency. To verify your beacon is properly registered contact the Canadian Beacon Registry at **1-877-406-7671** or online at: www.cbr-rcb.ca.

Disposal of your EPIRB

Once an EPIRB has reached its expiry date, the proper disposal of the EPIRB is very important; an improperly disposed of EPIRB can result in the unnecessary response of the SAR system. Once an expired EPIRB has been replaced, the old beacon needs to be unregistered, and the new one registered. The expired EPIRB should be returned to the retail outlet where it was purchased for proper disposal, or the battery removed from the unit immediately and the circuit board inside destroyed. The battery should be recycled. To unregister the beacon, contact the Canadian Beacon Registry at the telephone number provided above. It is imperative that all of these steps be followed:

- 1) Deactivate the EPIRB Hex Code with the Canadian Beacon Registry Office
- 2) Disconnect and remove the battery from the EPIRB
- 3) Take the battery to a battery recycling facility
- 4) Dispose of the EPIRB body in the garbage.

The Canadian Coast Guard treats all EPIRB signals as distress alerts and acts accordingly. When SAR resources are responding to “false alerts”, response time for real incidents are impacted. The proper and effective response of the SAR system depends on you.

THANKS to the Canadian Coast Guard and JRCC Halifax