



SHIP SAFETY BULLETIN

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We issue Ship Safety Bulletins for the marine community. Visit our Website at www.tc.gc.ca/ssb-bsn to view existing bulletins and to sign up to receive e-mail notices of new ones.



Subject: **GME 406 MHz EPIRB Precautionary Alert**

Purpose:

This Ship Safety Bulletin:

- informs Canadian Mariners about a recent safety alert related to GME branded EPIRBs made by Standard Communications Pty Ltd.; and
- reminds Canadian Mariners to conduct periodic EPIRB inspections and provide up-to-date contact information to the Canadian Beacon Registry.

Background:

GME 406 MHz EPIRBs received Canadian type acceptance in 2008. On November 4th, 2013, GME issued a precautionary safety alert about a small number of GME EPIRBs that failed the self-test procedure. Such a failure may mean that the EPIRB will not operate in an emergency.

You can view this safety alert on the GME website at:

<http://www.gme.net.au/public/pdf/brochures/epirb%20safety%20alert.pdf>

Keywords:

1. Beacon
2. GME
3. EPIRB

Questions concerning this Bulletin should be addressed to:

AMSEC
Russ Renaud
613-998-0602

Transport Canada
Marine Safety and Security
Tower C, Place de Ville
330 Sparks Street, 10th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N8

Contact us at: marinesafety-securitemaritime@tc.gc.ca or 1-855-859-3123 (Toll Free).

Periodic Testing:

If regulations require you **carry an EPRIB** on your vessel, you must:

- test the EPRIBs at least once every six months, as set out in the manufacturer's instructions; and
- record the results in the radio log.

If you carry a 406 MHz EPRIB on your vessel on a voluntary basis, Transport Canada recommends that you follow the manufacturer's testing schedule.

Registration:

Remember, you **must register 406 MHz beacons with the Canadian Beacon Registry (CBR)**. You must also notify the CBR:

- about any changes in status of your vessel or emergency point-of-contact; and
- when you remove 406 MHz beacons for storage, sale, replacement or disposal.

You can register 406 MHz beacons free-of-charge on line at: <https://www.cbr-rcb.ca>

You can also contact the CRB by:

Mail

Canadian Beacon Registry
CFB Trenton, PO Box 1000 Stn Forces
Astra, Ontario K0K 3W0

Telephone

1-877-406-SOS1 (7671)

Facsimile

1-877-406-FAX8 (8298)

E-Mail

CBR@sarnet.dnd.ca