



# Merchant Marine Circular

Panama Maritime Authority  
General Directorate of Merchant Marine  
Control and Compliance Department

## MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-158

**To:** Ship-owner/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organization (RO's).

**Subject:** EPIRB Registration.

**Reference:** Decree Law No. 7, 1998.  
Law No. 7 of October 27, 1977 - SOLAS 1974;  
Law No. 12 of November 9, 1981 – SOLAS Protocol 1978;  
Law No. 31 of July 11, 2007 – SOLAS Protocol 1988  
IMO Resolution A. 887(21).

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1. The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, Chapter IV, Regulation 5-1, establishes that each Contracting Government undertakes to ensure that suitable arrangements are made for registering Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) identities and for making information on these identities available to rescue coordination centers on a 24-hours basis.
2. IMO Resolution A. 887(21) adopts the Recommendations on the Establishment, Updating and Retrieval of the Information contained in the Registration Database for the GMDSS, which should include the EPIRB identification code.
3. All vessels under the SOLAS convention must register their beacons; it is essential for efficient search-and-rescue (SAR) operations, making the difference between life and death. By registering your beacon you allow authorities in an emergency to retrieve crucial information about your vessel.
4. With the purpose to assist States in the responsibility of beacon registration, COSPAS-SARSAT implemented an International 406 MHz Beacon Registration Database, allowing users to register their beacons and provide information that can be of great use to SAR services in the event of beacon activation. SAR services are able to query the International Registration Database directly over the Internet.



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5. Taking in consideration the above information, ship owners/operators are committed to register their 406 MHz emergency beacon (EPIRB) by accessing to <https://www.406registration.com> COSPAS-SARSAT International Registration Database. This service is entirely free of charge. For additional information, consult COSPAS-SARSAT at <https://cospas-sarsat.int/>.

**January, 2023** – Paragraph 5 amended, “<https://www.406registration.com>” and “<https://cospas-sarsat.int/>”, included.  
**March, 2008.**

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Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Circular or any other request should be forward to:

Ship Registry Department  
General Directorate of Merchant Marine  
Panama Maritime Authority

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Website: <https://panamashipregistry.com/circulars/>