

RESOLUTION A.764(18) adopted on 4 November 1993  
ESTABLISHMENT, UPDATING AND RETRIEVAL OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED  
IN THE REGISTRATION DATABASES OF SATELLITE EPIRBs

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME  
ORGANIZATION



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THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 15(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations and guidelines concerning maritime safety,

RECALLING ALSO resolutions A.661(16) and A.763(18) by which it established the performance standards for satellite EPIRBs,

RECOGNIZING the need to establish and continuously update the information contained in the registration databases of satellite EPIRBs,

RECOGNIZING also that the information in such registration databases is essential for search and rescue purposes,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its sixty-second session,

1. ADOPTS the Recommendation on the Establishment, Updating and Retrieval of the Information Contained in the Registration Databases of Satellite EPIRBs, set out in the Annex to the present resolution;
2. RECOMMENDS Governments to ensure that the information contained in the registration databases of satellite EPIRBs and their continuous updating is in accordance with the Recommendation given in the Annex to the present resolution.

W/0255a

ANNEX

RECOMMENDATION ON ESTABLISHMENT, UPDATING AND RETRIEVAL OF  
THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REGISTRATION  
DATABASES OF SATELLITE EPIRBs

1 All 406 MHz and L-band EPIRBs should be registered. Every State requiring or allowing the use of 406 MHz or L-band EPIRBs should make suitable arrangements for registration of these EPIRBs and appropriately enforce EPIRB registration, possibly as part of a wider communication facilities registration. There should not be more than one database per State. Each Government is encouraged to register all its 406 MHz EPIRBs in the same database.

2 The country of registration coded in a satellite EPIRB memory should make suitable arrangements to always enable ready availability of pertinent registration data to SAR forces. All L-band EPIRBs should be registered with INMARSAT. For 406 MHz EPIRBs the country of registration identity should be coded in accordance with one of the following principles:

- .1 if the registration database is maintained by the ship's flag State, use the country code\* of the flag State;
- .2 if the registration database is not maintained by the ship's flag State use
  - .1 the country code\* of the flag State, and IMO shall be informed of the unique database where all its 406 MHz EPIRBs are registered; or
  - .2 serialized protocol with the country code\* of the country which is maintaining the database.

3 Each registration database should include at least the following emergency SAR information:

- .1 EPIRB identification code;
- .2 name of the ship and its call-sign/MMSI;
- .3 name, address and phone number of emergency contact person ashore;
- .4 alternative 24-hour emergency phone number;
- .5 brief ship description (type, GRT);
- .6 capacity for persons on board (passengers and crew); and
- .7 ships radio installation (INMARSAT, HF, MF, etc.).

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\* Note: The country code is a 3-digit decimal number allocated to each country/territory by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and listed as Maritime Identification Digits (MIDs) in appendix 43 of the ITU Radio Regulations.

- 4 Means should be provided for the EPIRB licensee, owner or the ship's master to easily and expediently update emergency information in the registration database.
- 5 Database maintainers should contact the EPIRB licensee or owner or both at least every two years to confirm that the database information is accurate.
- 6 Authorities maintaining or using databases should ensure that information supplied for EPIRB registration is used only by appropriate recognized SAR authorities.
- 7 Every State should either:
  - .1 maintain a suitable national registration database; or
  - .2 co-ordinate with other States to maintain a joint database; or
  - .3 ensure that satellite EPIRBs are registered in a global database.
- 8 States should also:
  - .1 become well informed on the unique capabilities of the various 406 MHz and L-band EPIRBs, and select those for use which best support their national system for aeronautical and/or maritime SAR, including service to non-SOLAS ships;
  - .2 promulgate clear and timely guidance to manufacturers and users on coding and registration procedures;
  - .3 ensure that reliable means is provided for continuous access to database information for SAR authorities;
  - .4 co-operate closely with other States, manufacturers, owners and organizations to help resolve any registration or information retrieval problems that may arise;
  - .5 disseminate procedures via IMO, COSPAS-SARSAT, INMARSAT and other service providers, on how EPIRB registration database information for their ships can be obtained by SAR authorities;
  - .6 formalize co-operative arrangements between the parties concerned for the maintenance of a joint database;
  - .7 encourage manufacturers and distributors to advise customers, upon purchase of properly coded EPIRBs, about registration requirements, and refer unresolved coding and registration issues to proper national authorities for resolution; and
  - .8 encourage manufacturers and distributors to educate users about maintenance of EPIRBs.

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