



Accidental activation

If an EPIRB is activated by accident, the most important thing to do is to turn it off and let AMSA know as soon as possible on Freecall 1800 641 792 or inform your nearest marine radio station.

Disposal of unwanted beacons

Distress beacons need to be disposed of responsibly to avoid accidental activation.

Do not dispose of your beacon in general waste as it will end up in landfill and could be activated inadvertently. Unwanted beacons can be left in marked bins at Battery World stores around Australia. Location of Battery World outlets can be found on their website: www.batteryworld.com.au

Alternatively, the documentation that comes with distress beacons often contains information about how to disarm the beacon safely. If in doubt, check with the manufacturer or local agent. A list of distress beacons, with simple instructions on disarming them, can be found at www.amsa.gov.au/beacons/disposal

Check with your local waste management facility for an environmentally friendly way of disposing of your old EPIRB battery.

For further advice call the beacon advice line on 1800 406 406.

Further information

For further information about EPIRBs visit our website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine or contact the Department on (08) 9216 8966

E-mail: marine.safety@transport.wa.gov.au

AMSA

Beacon advice line 1800 406 406
or visit the Australian Maritime Safety Authority's website: <http://beacons.amsa.gov.au>

EPIRBs

Make the right switch to 406

Is it designed
for marine
use?



Be careful when you make the switch to 406!

Recreational vessels proceeding more than two nautical miles from the mainland shore (*except in the metropolitan EPIRB Exempt area*) must now carry a 406 MHz Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) meeting the Australian/New Zealand Standard 4280.1.

Beacon owners and users of the obsolete 121.5/243 MHz EPIRBs must replace them with a 406 MHz EPIRBs before proceeding beyond the area mentioned above.

The International Cospas-Sarsat System ceased satellite processing of 121.5/243 MHz beacons 1 February 2009.

They're not all EPIRBs

Care needs to be taken when purchasing a 406 MHz EPIRB as there are currently two types of portable distress beacons available on the market, the EPIRB and the Personal Locator Beacon (PLB). Each has been designed for a specific purpose and use.

Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs - AS/NZS 4280.1)

406 MHz distress beacons designed for maritime use are labeled as EPIRB (AS/NZS 4280.1).

EPIRBs are designed to operate most effectively when activated in the water. They are required to operate for a minimum of 48 hours and float upright when deployed.



Many brands of 406 MHz EPIRB are available on the market, be sure you choose one that is AS/NZS 4280.1 compliant.

Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs - AS/NZS 4280.2)

PLBs (AS/NZS 4280.2) are portable units that operate in much the same way as EPIRBs. They are used by bushwalkers, 4 wheel drivers and other land based adventurers. They are small and compact enough to fit into pockets.

Some PLBs have been incorrectly sold as EPIRBs and this has resulted in confusion within the market. PLBs are only required to operate for a minimum of 24 hours. More importantly, although they are required to float, PLBs do not need to float in a manner that keeps the antenna above the water thereby meaning that a survivor must ensure the beacon is supported clear of the water.

For these reasons, PLBs, no matter how they are labelled, will not be accepted by the Department as an approved EPIRB for use in Western Australian waters.



AS/NZS 4280.2 PLBs are not approved for maritime applications

406 MHz beacon registration

You MUST register your 406 MHz beacon with Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). If you change the information (such as phone number, address, bought a new boat, etc.) you MUST update your 406 MHz beacon registration details. Registration is FREE!

For more information on beacon registration visit the AMSA website: <http://beacons.amsa.gov.au>