

**Bermuda 406 MHz PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON (P L B)
Licensing, Programming and Registration Procedures (Rev. November 2006).**

It is recommended that persons using a PLB read this information sheet prior to purchasing a Personal Locator Beacon. This ensures the correct programming of the PLB in accordance with international and Bermuda requirements.

IMPORTANT!

A PLB IS NEVER TO BE USED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR AN EPIRB OR AN ELT.

*The internationally agreed specifications for EPIRBs and ELTs as life-saving and rescue equipment are **not** fulfilled by PLBs.*

1. Persons needing to use a PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON must apply to do so to the Department of Telecommunications, so that a license can be issued. +441 292 4595.
2. Persons normally resident in Bermuda, or vessels or aircraft which are Bermuda Registered, may license and register a PLB in Bermuda. Once the PLB is no longer owned or to be used RCC Bermuda **must** be notified, the PLB must be disabled or re-programmed and Registration **must** be cancelled. Bermuda Registered Personal Locator Beacons may only be used worldwide **where permitted, excluding on land in Bermuda**. It is the responsibility of the PLB OWNER to satisfy himself that the PLB is being used only in places where such use is permitted.
3. Every 406 MHz PLB must be programmed with two key items of information :
 - 3.1 The first relates to the country in which the PLB is registered. This 3 digit country code or Maritime Identification Digits (MID) is **310 for Bermuda**.
 - 3.2 The PLB Manufacturer's COSPAS/SARSAT Type Approval Number (CSTA Number) TOGETHER WITH the PLB Manufacturer's Serial Number. (The CSTA Number is issued by COSPAS / SARSAT to PLB manufacturers for every PLB model. These can be found per PLB model, from the COSPAS / SARSAT web pages List of Type Approved Beacons By Manufacturer).
4. 406 MHz PLBs referred to in this information sheet **must** be registered with Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC) Bermuda using the appropriate registration form. Call (441) 297-1010 to obtain a copy by fax, or visit their web site at : www.rccbermuda.bm . Registration is a free service.

The importance of registering your 406 MHz PLB

A registration form must be completed and returned if full benefit from the operation of your 406 MHz PLB is to be obtained. While search and rescue authorities will be able to determine the position of the beacon, the registration process ensures that the person owning the PLB can also be identified. In addition, the emergency contact information supplied on the registration form enables the RCC to contact a nominated person, to provide further crucial information on the circumstances of the distress.

Registration information is also critical in the case of accidental PLB activation, where the owner of a beacon may need to be traced in order to have the beacon switched off.

Because most PLBs are likely to be purchased in the U.S. market, they will be supplied pre-programmed with a U.S. beacon code. This needs to be changed to a Bermuda beacon code at the time of purchase by having your Bermuda MID, (or 'Country Code') 310, and the CSTA Number and PLB Manufacturers Serial Number programmed into the PLB. Similarly the U.S. registration form supplied by NOAA should not be used. Obtain and complete a Bermuda Registration Form. A bi-annual re-registration to confirm PLB owner and beacon details, and emergency contact information will also be undertaken.

RCC Bermuda staff are available 24 hours to answer any questions about this important process. Telephone : (441) 297-1010 Fax : (441) 297-1530 E-mail : operations@rccbermuda.bm