



Florida
Department of Highway Safety
and Motor Vehicles
Division of Motorist Services

PROCEDURE # VSRS-15	SUBJECT: EMERGENCY POSITION-INDICATING RADIO BEACON (EPIRB) OR PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON (PLB)
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DESCRIPTION:

This procedure provides information and instructions to guide employees and agents of the Department with registering a recreational vessel equipped with an Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) or with registering a recreational vessel when the owner of the vessel owns a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB).

PROVISIONS OF LAW:

This procedure is governed by:

[Section 328.72, Florida Statutes, Vessels, title certificates, liens and registration.](#)

Revision(s) to this procedure: Made minor grammatical edits, corrected page number, removed column Current Reduced Fee (2016-2017) from Registration Fee Chart, added Exhibits A-E, and Historical Revisions section.

EFFECTIVE DATE Immediately	REVISION DATE 03/07/18
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STATE OF FLORIDA
Division of Motorist Services

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EMERGENCY POSITION-INDICATING RADIO BEACON (EPIRB) OR
PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON (PLB)

DEFINITIONS:

- A. Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB): a device installed on the vessel being registered that:
1. Transmits distress signals at a frequency between 406.0 and 406.1 MHz;
 2. Is manufactured by a company approved to manufacture beacons by the International Cospas-Sarsat Programme; and
 3. Is registered with the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- B. Personal Locator Beacon (PLB): a device designed to be carried by an individual that:
1. Transmits distress signals at a frequency between 406.0 and 406.1 MHz;
 2. Is manufactured by a company approved to manufacture beacons by the International Cospas-Sarsat Programme; and
 3. Is registered with the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON (PLB)

FEE REDUCTIONS:

[Section 328.72\(18\) \(b\), Florida Statutes](#), provides for reduced vessel registration fees for a recreational vessel that is equipped with an EPIRB, or for a recreational vessel when the owner owns a PLB.

The chart below indicates the current fee and the reduced fee based on the classification of the vessel if it is equipped with an EPIRB, or if the owner of the vessel owns a PLB.

Registration Fee Chart for Recreational Vessels with an EPIRB or when Owner has a PLB

Vessel Classification	Length	Current Fee (without reduction)	Reduced Fee
Class A-1	Less than 12 Feet	\$5.50	\$2.95
Class A-2	12 to less than 16 Feet	\$16.25	\$11.00
Class 1	16 to less than 26 Feet	\$28.75	\$20.40
Class 2	26 to less than 40 Feet	\$78.25	\$57.50
Class 3	40 to less than 65 Feet	\$127.75	\$94.95
Class 4	65 to less than 110 Feet	\$152.75	\$113.40
Class 5	110 or more in length	\$189.75	\$141.15

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FEE REDUCTION QUALIFICATIONS, DOCUMENTATION AND PROCESSING TRANSACTIONS:

To qualify for reduced registration fees at the time of registration, a recreational vessel owner must provide documentation that the vessel is equipped with an EPIRB, or documentation that the vessel owner owns a PLB.

- A. All EPIRBs and PLBs must be registered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This should be done immediately after purchase. See Exhibits A and B for sample EPIRB and PLB registration forms to be submitted to NOAA.
- B. All EPIRBs and PLBs must be manufactured by a company approved to manufacture beacons by the International Cospas-Sarsat Programme. This information will be shown on the registration letter.
- C. After initial registration or renewal with NOAA, the recreational vessel owner will receive a proof of registration letter. This letter will include the additional proof necessary for beacon registration and a recreational vessel fee reduction. Additionally, the recreational vessel owner will receive a decal from NOAA by postal mail to affix to the beacon so it is clearly visible. See Exhibit C for a sample decal.

Additional proof for an EPIRB or a PLB must include:

- 1. The name of the beacon owner.
 - 2. The expiration date for the beacon's registration.
 - 3. The unique identifier number (UIN) for the beacon. This is a 15-digit number, which is programmed into a 406 MHz beacon (EPIRB or PLB) by a manufacturer or installer. The UIN is part of the message transmitted by the beacon when activated. The UIN is also referred to as the Beacon ID in NOAA's Registration Database.
 - 4. For vessels equipped with an EPIRB, the identification information of the vessel.
 - 5. Documentation that the EPIRB or PLB transmits distress signals at a frequency between 406.0 and 406.1 Mhz. This will be shown on the registration letter.
- D. FRVIS modifications were added to allow issuance personnel to select the beacon code from a drop-down menu during an original or renewal registration transaction. After issuance personnel verify the above information from the customer's registration letter, they will select the type of beacon code (EPIRB, PLB, or None) from the drop-down menu during an original or renewal registration transaction.
 - E. Once the type of emergency beacon is selected, issuance personnel must enter the beacon UID number, expiration date, beacon code type, and effective date of the NOAA registration letter to validate the transaction, and allow for the fee reduction. This information will be available on the proof of registration letter from NOAA.

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EMERGENCY POSITION-INDICATING RADIO BEACON (EPIRB) OR
PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON (PLB)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A. A customer who owns a recreational vessel equipped with an EPIRB, or a customer who owns a recreational vessel and has a PLB, and submits the necessary documentation during an original or renewal transaction, is eligible to receive a registration fee reduction.
- B. For a biennial registration transaction, the customer will receive the vessel fee reduction for both years regardless if the documentation expires during the second year of the renewal period.
- C. A customer is allowed the vessel fee reduction only one time for each vessel during the **renewal** year.
- D. If a primary registrant owns more than one vessel that is equipped with an EPIRB, the registrant will receive a fee reduction when registering each vessel.
- E. The primary registrant of a vessel who owns a PLB is limited to **ONLY** one fee reduction regardless of how many vessels the registrant has.
- F. For information about beacon registration, visit the NOAA website at <http://www.sarsat.noaa.gov/beacon.html> or register online at <https://beaconregistration.noaa.gov/rgdb/>.

For additional information regarding beacon registration, contact the NOAA Beacon Registration team at beacon.registration@noaa.gov and write "Beacon Registration" in the subject line, or call (888) 212-7283 or (301) 817-4515.

Historical Revisions:

- **07/01/17- Removed the expiration date of 06/30/2017 and added the reduced fees to the fee chart.**

EXHIBIT A

Sample Letter and Registration form for an Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon from NOAA



SARSAT Beacon Registration

NOAA/SAR
SAT NSOF,
E/SPO53
1315 East West Hwy
Silver Spring MD
20910

April 14, 2016

Joseph Sample
999 ABC Street
City in FL 99999

Beacon ID:

2DCC3 FD824 FFBFF

Dear Sample Joseph

Thank you for submitting an update for your **406 MHz emergency beacon** registration, renewing your registration, or requesting a replacement decal.

A 15-character Unique Identifier Number (UIN) has been programmed into your 406 MHz emergency beacon by the manufacturer or an installer. The UIN is part of the message transmitted by the beacon when activated. The UIN is also referred to as the Beacon ID in NOAA's Registration Database. Please verify that the 15-character Beacon ID registered with NOAA is identical to the 15-character manufacturer/installer programmed UIN. The Beacon ID registered with NOAA is found on the upper right-hand corner of this letter. For most beacons the manufacturer/installer programmed UIN can be found on an exterior or an interior surface of the beacon itself. It is also on the documentation provided by the manufacturer or installer. Please contact the manufacturer or installer if you cannot find or determine the manufacturer/installer programmed UIN. If the Beacon ID registered with NOAA is not identical to the manufacturer/installer UIN, please contact us immediately by phone at one of the phone numbers listed below.

In the event that your beacon is activated the information you provided will be appended to the distress message transmitted to a Rescue Coordination Center. This information is critical for Search and Rescue (SAR) forces locating you, your vessel, or your aircraft in a timely manner and could possibly save your life. This message is the proof-of-registration for your beacon.

The registration information you have provided has been entered into our database and a file of this information is attached. Log on to your beacon registration account to update any information at: www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov. **Ensure that all your information is up to date, especially the emergency point of contact information.** If you do not have internet access, you may also make the changes by hand on the attached form and return it to us at the address shown below or by fax at: 301-817-4565.

For all beacon types, a proof of registration letter, will follow shortly in the mail. Additionally, you will receive a decal if you are registering an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) or Personal Locator Beacon (PLB). Decals are no longer provided for Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs). It is recommended that you affix the decal to the beacon in such a way that it is visible when the beacon is properly mounted. Be sure the area is clean and dry when affixing the decal. It will take 48 hours for the decal adhesive to properly bond. A laminate will be provided. Place this laminate over your decal to protect it from exposure to the weather.

Registration of 406 MHz emergency beacons is mandatory and must be renewed every two years. We will email, mail or fax you a reminder approximately two months prior to the two-year expiration of your beacon registration.

Please read the beacon owner's manual carefully for instructions on proper installation, operation, maintenance, testing, removal, storage, and disposal of your beacon. Following the instructions in the owner's manual ensures that the beacon works properly when needed and eliminates false alerts which waste valuable Search and Rescue resources. If you have questions about information in the owner's manual please **contact the beacon manufacturer.**

The expiration date on the NOAA beacon registration decal **does not refer to the beacon battery or hydrostatic release expiration.** If you have any questions regarding beacon registration please **contact the NOAA Beacon Registration team** at beacon.registration@noaa.gov (please write "Beacon Registration" in the subject line), or call (888) 212-7283 or (301) 817-4515.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. O'Connors".

Christopher O' Connors, SARSAT
Program Manager



EXHIBIT A (continued)

Save time! Update your beacon online at: www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov

Mail or Fax to: NOAA/SARSAT NSOF, E/SPO53 1315 East West Hwy Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax No. 301-817-4565

Official 406 MHz EPIRB Registration Form

EPIRB INFORMATION

Beacon ID (Unique Identifier Number) 2 D C C 3 F D 8 2 4 F F B F F (15-digit character ID provided by EPIRB manufacturer)

Category I (Automatic Deployment) EPIRB Manufacturer ACR
Category II (Manual Deployment) Model No. RLB-35 Decal Expiration Date 04/14/2018

Owner/Operator Information

Name Sample Joseph Telephone (999) 9999999
Mailing Address 999 ABC Street Home Work Cell Fax Other
City Sample City Home Work Cell Fax Other
State/Province FL Home Work Cell Fax Other
Zip (Postal)Code 99999 Home Work Cell Fax Other
Country USA Home Work Cell Fax Other
E-mail jsample2016@sample.com

Vessel Information

Usage: Commercial, Non-Commercial, Government Military, Government Non-military
Type: Sail: Number of Masts, Power: Fishing, Tug, Cargo, Tanker, Pleasure Craft, Other Sample, Non-Power: Life Boat, Life Raft, Other
Radio Equipment: VHF, MF, HF, Other
Vessel Telephone Numbers: Radio Call Sign, INMARSAT, Cellular, MMSI Number
Federal or State Registration Number DC.000001
Length Overall (ft) 35 Capacity 10
Homeport National Harbor
City: Sample City State: FL
Additional Data Sample Beacon Information
Vessel Name R/V V Griffin
Vessel Color Blue
Survival Craft(s) on Vessel: Life Boat (No. of), Life Raft (No. of)
Is your EPIRB equipped with a Simplified Voyage Data Recorder (SVDR)? Yes, No

Emergency Contact Information (Please indicate someone other than the owner)

Name of Primary 24-Hour Emergency Contact: Jane Sample (999) 9999999
Name of Alternate 24-Hour Emergency Contact:
Home Work Cell Fax Other

EXHIBIT B

Sample Letter and Registration form for a Personal Locator Beacon from NOAA



SARSAT Beacon Registration
NOAA/SARSAT
NSOF, E/SPO53
1315 East West Hwy
Silver Spring MD 20910

April 14, 2016

Joseph Sample
999 Address Street
City in, FL 99999

Beacon ID:
2DD60 0013F 81FE0

Dear Joseph Sample,

Thank you for submitting an update to your registration information.

A 15-character Unique Identifier Number (UIN) has been programmed into **your 406 MHz emergency beacon** by the manufacturer or an installer. The UIN is part of the message transmitted by the beacon when activated. The UIN is also referred to as the Beacon ID in NOAA's Registration Database. Please verify that the 15-character Beacon ID registered with NOAA is identical to the 15-character manufacturer/installer programmed UIN. The Beacon ID registered with NOAA is found on the upper right-hand corner of this letter. For most beacons the manufacturer/installer programmed UIN can be found on an exterior or an interior surface of the beacon itself. It is also on the documentation provided by the manufacturer or installer. Please contact the manufacturer or installer if you cannot find or determine the manufacturer/installer programmed UIN. **If the Beacon ID registered with NOAA is not identical to the manufacturer/installer UIN, please contact us immediately by phone at one of the phone numbers listed below.**

In the event that your beacon is activated the information you provided will be appended to the distress message transmitted to a Rescue Coordination Center. This information is critical for SAR forces to locate you, your vessel, or your aircraft in a timely manner and could possibly save your life. This message is the proof-of-registration for your beacon.

The registration information you have provided has been entered into our database and a file of this information is attached. The updates that were just made to your registration do not necessitate us sending a new decal to you at this time. Decals are no longer provided for Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs). Log on to your beacon registration account to update any information at: www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov. **Ensure all your information is up to date, especially the emergency point of contact information.** If you do not have internet access, you may also make the changes on the attached form and return it to us at the address shown below or by fax at: 301-817-4565.

Registration of 406 MHz emergency beacons is mandatory and must be renewed every two years. You are required to renew your beacon registration with NOAA within two years of initial registration or last confirmation. We will email, mail or fax you a reminder approximately two months prior to the two-year expiration of your beacon registration.

Please read the beacon owner's manual carefully for instructions on proper installation, operation, maintenance, testing, removal, storage, and disposal of your beacon. Following the instructions in the owner's manual ensures that the beacon works properly when needed and eliminates false alerts which waste valuable Search and Rescue resources. If you have questions about information in the owner's manual please **contact the beacon manufacturer.**

The expiration date on the NOAA beacon registration decal **does not refer to the beacon battery or hydrostatic release expiration.** If you have any questions regarding beacon registration please **contact the NOAA Beacon Registration team** at beacon_registration@noaa.gov (please write "Beacon Registration" in the subject line), or call (888) 212-7283 or (301) 817-4515.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. O' Connors".

Christopher O' Connors,
SARSAT Program Manager



Exhibit B (continued)

Save time! Update your beacon online at: www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov

Mail or Fax to: NOAA/SARSAT NSOF, E/SPO53 1315 East West Hwy Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax No. 301-817-4565

Official 406 MHz PLB Registration Form

PLB Information

Beacon ID (Unique Identifier Number) 2 D D 6 0 0 0 1 3 F 8 1 F E 0

(15-digit character ID provided by PLB manufacturer)

PLB Manufacturer N/A

Model No. 0000

Decal Expiration Date 03/29/2018

Owner/Operator Information

Name Joseph Sample Telephone (999) 9999999 Home Work Cell Fax Other
Mailing Address 999 Address Street (999) 9999999 Home Work Cell Fax Other
City City.in (999) 9999999 Home Work Cell Fax Other
State/Province FL Home Work Cell Fax Other
Zip (Postal)Code 99999 Home Work Cell Fax Other
Country USA Home Work Cell Fax Other
E-mail jsample2016@sample.com

General Use Data

Usage
Commercial Non-commercial Government Military Government Non-military

Specific Usage
Hiking Hunting Fishing Other Test

Type
Land Vehicle Boat Aircraft None Other

Additional Data RGDB Test Registration - beacon does not exist test 23

Emergency Contact Information (Please indicate someone other than the owner)

Name of Primary 24-Hour Emergency Contact: Name of Alternate 24-Hour Emergency Contact:
Jane Sample Home Work Cell Fax Other Home Work Cell Fax Other
(999) 9999999 Home Work Cell Fax Other Home Work Cell Fax Other
Home Work Cell Fax Other Home Work Cell Fax Other
Home Work Cell Fax Other Home Work Cell Fax Other

If you have any questions about this form or with PLB registration in general, please call 1-888-212-SAVE or 301-817-4515. For information on the U.S. Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking system, please visit www.sarsat.noaa.gov

OMB Auth.(0648-0295)/ exp. 30AUG2014

EXHIBIT C

Sample Decal for a Registered EPIRB or PLB



EXHIBIT E

Types of Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB)



EXHIBIT E

Types of Personal Locator Beacons (PLB)

