AUSTRIA

1. REGULATIONS

1.1 General

Nil

1.2 EPIRBs

Registration for ships according to SOLAS regulations is not possible.

Pleasure boats (Yachts) under Austrian Flag are subject to a minimum requirement of radio installation. The requirement is depending on the approved navigational area.

Navigational area 1   nil

Navigational area 2   up to 2 NM from the coast / day tours → GMDSS; VHF DSC-Radio and EPIRB

Navigational area 3   up to 200 NM from the coast → GMDSS; VHF DSC-Radio, EPIRB and DSC-HF or SAT-Phone

Navigational area 4   worldwide operation → GMDSS; VHF DSC-Radio, EPIRB and DSC-HF or SAT-Phone

1.3 ELTs

According to European and Austrian aviation regulations, a 121.5 and 406 MHz beacon is required to be carried on airplanes and certain helicopters.

General aviation aircrafts, for noncommercial operation (NCO), not more than six (6) persons on board, maximum takeoff weight not more than two (2) tons, instead of a fix installed ELT, a PLB with additional 121,5 MHz (and GNSS-coupling) on board is allowed (but not recommended).

1.4 PLBs

Austria is authorizing the use of PLBs on Austrian territory for all purposes if they are correct registered. Mandatory is a built in GNSS Receiver.

Note: PLBs used on small aircraft instead of ELT (according to EASA NCO/NCC) need **mandatory** a built in GNSS receiver and additional frequency 121.5 MHz.

1.4.1   National Beacon Regulations for Serial-Coded PLBs

Administration	For Terrestrial Applications Country Recognises PLB Activations	In Maritime Environment Country Recognises PLB Activations	On Aircraft Country Recognises PLB Activations	Comments
Austria	Y	Not Applicable	R	Note: Terrestrial alerts are relayed to Police or Landeswarnzentrale. Appropriate SAR action cannot be guaranteed as no legislation and no formal responsibilities/procedures are available. A mobile telephone, emergency radio network access, emergency telephone or satellite telephone are more suitable for raising the alarm in an emergency for some circumstances.

Similar information is available in the new table on the Cospas-Sarsat website (www.cospas-sarsat.int) with the status indication in colors (Y = green, allows / N = red, not allowed / Restrictions = amber (see comments) and with the note that the national beacon regulations can be found on the Cospas-Sarsat website in document C/S S.007).

2.   BEACONS CODING METHODS

- ELT: Emergency Locator Transmitter
- EPIRB: Emergency Position Indicating Radio-Beacon,
- MMSI: Maritime Mobile Service Identity,
- PLB: Personal Locator Beacon,
- RLS: Return Link Service,
- S/N: Serial Number of the device,
- TAC: Cospas-Sarsat Type-Approval Certificate number,

2.1   EPIRB Coding Methods

Country Code(s)	USER PROTOCOLS				LOCATION PROTOCOLS								
	Maritime User		Serial User	Radio Call Sign	User Location			Standard Location		National Location	RLS (Return Link Service)		
	MMSI	Radio Call Sign	TAC & S/N	Radio Call Sign	MMSI	TAC & S/N	Radio Call Sign	MMSI	TAC & S/N	Serial Number Assigned by Competent Administration	National RLS Number	TAC & S/N	RLS MMSI
203	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y

2.2 ELT Coding Methods

Country Code(s)	USER PROTOCOLS				LOCATION PROTOCOLS									
	Serial User			Aviation User	User Location				Standard Location			National Location	RLS (Return Link Service)	
	TAC & S/N	Aircraft Operator Designator and Serial Number	Aircraft 24-bit Address	Aircraft Nationality and Registration Marking	TAC & S/N	Aircraft Operator Designator and Serial Number	Aircraft 24-bit Address	Aircraft Nationality and Registration Marking	TAC & S/N	Aircraft Operator Designator and Serial Number	Aircraft 24-bit Address	S/N Assigned by Competent Administration	National RLS Number	TAC & S/N
203	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y

2.3 PLB Coding Methods

Country Code(s)	USER PROTOCOLS	LOCATION PROTOCOLS					
	Serial User	User Location	Standard Location	National Location	RLS (Return Link Service)		
	TAC & S/N	TAC & S/N		S/N Assigned by Competent Administration	National RLS Number	TAC & S/N	RLS MMSI
203	Y	Y		N	N	Y	[Y/N]

2.4 Return Link Service (RLS) Protocols

On 31 March 2022, Austria notified the Cospas-Sarsat Programme of the implementation of proactive handling of RLS-protocol distress alert messages, and authorization for return-link-service-capable beacons to be coded with its national country codes.

3. LIST OF BEACON MODELS TYPE APPROVED BY ADMINISTRATION

EPIRBs: All 406 MHz beacons which are type-approved by Cospas-Sarsat.

ELTs: All 121.5 / 406 MHz beacons which are type approved by EASA.

PLBs: For maritime usage onboard Austrian yachts which are not under IMO carriage and programmed with MMSI - models which are type-approved by Cospas-Sarsat and certified in accordance with the radio equipment directive 2014/53/EU (RED) and the standard ETSI EN 302 152.

4. BEACON TESTING REGULATION

Distress beacons should only be activated in a distress situation or using a beacon's self-test mode. For ELTs, this must be performed in compliance with the instructions for continuing airworthiness and, in addition, civ AIP GEN 1-11 has to be considered.

5.   POINT OF CONTACT FOR BEACON MATTERS (CODING, REGISTRATION AND TYPE APPROVAL)

The point of contact for beacon matters is:

- RCC Austrocontrol as SPOC for Austria
- ELT (coding and registration): Austrocontrol
- EPIRB (coding and registration): Telecommunication Office for Austria
- PLB (registration): Telecommunication Office for Austria

> Updated point of contact details for administrations are available at:
> https://www.cospas-sarsat.int/en/contacts-pro/contacts-details-all.

6.   BEACON REGISTRATION

6.1   Regulation

Austria maintains two national databases for registering EPIRBs / PLBs and ELTs.

EPIRBs and PLBs registered by the Austrian Telecommunication Authority.
EPIRBs included in the Ship Station Licence and all this data are available in ITU MARS database.

ELTs are registered by the Civil Aviation Authority of Austria (Austrocontrol) which is also operating the RCC.

6.2   Forms

A registration of Cospas-Sarsat ELT 406 MHz (and additional 121.5 MHz) can be done via the following link:
https://www.austrocontrol.at/en/aviation_agency/safety/search_and_rescue/elt_registration

An application form for the registration of EPIRBs is contained in the application form for a ship station license and can be downloaded via the following link:
https://www.fb.gv.at/formulare/schifffunk.html (German language only). The completed application form has to be sent by postal or mail to the Austrian Telecommunication Office.

A registration of PLBs can be done via the following link: https://www.fb.gv.at/formulare/meldung-betriebsaufnahme-80a.html (German language only).

END OF SECTION -