BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

1. REGULATIONS

Acronyms and definitions listed below are not specific to the regulations of one country in particular. Following links are provided for information only:

- ELT: Emergency Locator Transmitter
- ELT(DT): Emergency Locator Transmitter for Distress Tracking,
- EPIRB: Emergency Position Indicating Radio-Beacon,
- FGB: First-Generation Beacon (technology based on documents C/S T.001 and C/S T.007)
- LADR: Location of an Aircraft in Distress Repository,
- MMSI: Maritime Mobile Service Identity,
- PLB: Personal Locator Beacon,
- RLS: Return Link Service,
- S/N: Serial Number of the device,
- SGB: Second-Generation Beacon (technology based on documents C/S T.018 and C/S T.021)
- TAC : Cospas-Sarsat Type-Approval Certificate number.

1.1 General

Not available.

1.2 EPIRBs

EPIRBs of vessels registered in the British Virgin Islands are registered with the International 406 MHz Beacon Registration Database (IBRD) (https://www.406registration.com)

1.3 ELTs

Not available.

1.4 PLBs

PLBs coded with RLS MMSI Location Protocols are allowed onboard vessels and must be individually registered in the IBRD by the beacon owners.

1.4.1 National Beacon Regulations for Serial-Coded PLBs

Administration	For Terrestrial Applications	In Maritime Environment	On Aircraft	Comments
	Country Recognises PLB Activations	Country Recognises PLB Activations	Country Recognises PLB Activations	
BVI	Y	Y	Y	SAR services respond to all types of beacon activation located in the BVI

*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 / **R**estrictions = 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

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
378	**Y**	**N**	**N**	**N**	**Y**	**N**	**N**	**Y**	**N**	**N**	**N**	**N**	**Y**

The following warning is provided to beacon manufacturers and beacon owners as general guidance:

WARNING:
Note for maritime protocols that use the Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) as the vessel identifier: As a result of recent developments, the International Cospas-Sarsat Programme has become aware of maritime Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) being coded pursuant to Recommendation ITU-R M.585 using as the beacon "country code" the form "98M", where "M" is the first digit of an MID (Maritime Identification Digits) assigned to an Administration, or using the form "974". No 406-MHz EPIRB should be coded in these ways. A distress message from a beacon so coded will be processed on receipt by Cospas-Sarsat as "invalid" and either discarded or subjected to exception handling. The "country code" of all 406-MHz beacons must be a valid MID assigned by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to an Administration, in the numerical range from 200 to 780. No exceptions.

2.2 ELT Coding Methods

2.2.1 ELTs

(This subsection does not include ELT(DT) 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
378	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*

2.2.2 ELT(DT)s

a) FGB ELT(DT)s

Country Code(s)	FGB LOCATION PROTOCOLS		
	FGB ELT(DT) Location		
	TAC & Serial Number [1]	Aircraft Operator Designator and Serial Number [1]	Aircraft 24-bit Address [2]
378	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*

Notes:

(1) This protocol does not provide an 'Aircraft Identification' as required by ICAO for populating the LADR.

(2) This protocol provides an 'Aircraft Identification', and an 'Aircraft Operator Identity' only when the Aircraft Operator Designator (3LD) is included in the rotating PDF-2 field, as required by ICAO for populating the LADR. Default 3LD values should be "ZGA".

b) SGB ELT(DT)s

Country Code(s)	SGB CODING OPTIONS		
	SGB ELT(DT)		
	Aircraft Registration Markings [1] (Vessel ID #3)	Aircraft 24-bit Address [2] (Vessel ID #4)	Aircraft Operator Designator and Serial Number [3] Vessel ID #5)
378	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*

Notes:

(1) This option does not provide an Aircraft Operator Designator (3LD), which is required by ICAO for populating the LADR.

(2) This option provides an 'Aircraft Identification', and an 'Aircraft Operator Identity' only when the Aircraft Operator Designator (3LD) is also included, as required by ICAO for populating the LADR. Default 3LD values should be "ZGA".

(3) This option does not provide an 'Aircraft Identification' which is required by ICAO for populating the LADR.

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
378	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*		*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*	*[Y/N]*	**Y**

2.4 Return Link Service (RLS) Protocols

The Cospas-Sarsat Council declared effective 26 March 2021 the Return Link Service (RLS) at Full Operational Capability (FOC) within Cospas-Sarsat.

In March 2022, the Cospas-Sarsat Council decided to approve the operational use of RLS FGBs coded with MMSI.

3. LIST OF BEACON MODELS TYPE APPROVED BY ADMINISTRATION

Not available.

4. BEACON TESTING REGULATION

Not available.

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

The point of contact for beacon matters is:

- Gregory A. Nelson (Chief Spectrum Officer) / Darren Woodley (Senior Spectrum Officer)

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

EPIRBs and ELTs are registered in the IBRD by the BVI National Data Provider (NDP).

PLBs registration in the IBRD is allowed by individuals, including PLBs coded with the RLS-MMSI Location Protocol.

6.2 Forms

- For EPIRBs:

https://www.trc.vg/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/016_016_BVI-Epirb-Registration-Form.pdf

- For ELTs: no form available
- For PLBs: no form available.

- END OF SECTION -