HONG KONG, CHINA

1. REGULATIONS

1.1 General

EPIRBs, ELTs and PLBs are regarded as means of telecommunications. Every radio station in Hong Kong including mobile radio stations registered in Hong Kong are required to obtain the appropriate licence from the Communications Authority for the establishment, operation and maintenance of its telecommunication means.

1.2 EPIRBs

Every ship of 300 gross tonnage and above proceeding out to sea shall be fitted with one EPIRB. High Speed Craft (passenger ships) plying in the Pearl River Estuary may be granted with an exemption provided the vessels are fitted with a radio installation using Digital Selective Call (DSC) and a Global Positioning System (GPS).

1.3 ELTs

Hong Kong registered aircraft issued with a Certificate of Airworthiness or Permit to fly is required to carry Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) according to Annex 6 of the ICAO Standards.

The detailed requirements on the type and quantity of the ELT can be found in the latest issue of the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) Airworthiness Notice (AN) No. 27 Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT). (https://www.cad.gov.hk/reports/HKAN/Airworthiness_Notices.pdf)

1.4 PLBs

406 MHz PLBs are allowed for personal use in Hong Kong.

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	
Hong Kong, China	Y	Y	N	Nil

*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

The following acronyms are used in the tables below:

- 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,
- Y: Administration allows beacons to be coded with this protocol for this(these) country code(s),
- N: Administration does not allow beacons to be coded with this protocol for this(these) country code(s).

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
477	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	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
477	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

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
477	Y	Y		N	N	Y	N

2.4 Return Link Service (RLS) Protocols

Per document C/S T.001 section A.3.3.7 “RLS Location Protocol”, “The RLS-MMSI protocol option is not approved for use in beacons prior to future approval by the [Cospas-Sarsat] Council”.

3. LIST OF BEACON MODELS TYPE APPROVED BY ADMINISTRATION

Beacon Manufacturer	Beacon Model	C/S Type Approval Certificate Number	Hong Kong Type Approval Certificate Number	Comments (Manufacturer Model if Different)
McMurdo	E3	106	RF299165	
	FASTFIND	129	RF202107	
	FASTFIND PLUS	129	RF202108	
Pains Wessex	SOS Rescue 406	106	RF299178	

Note: EPIRB which has been type-approved by Cospas-Sarsat shall be deemed to be approved by Hong Kong, China.

4. BEACON TESTING REGULATION

Not available.

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

The points of contact for beacon matters are:

- EPIRBs and PLBs (registration): Office of the Communication Authority
- ELTs (registration): Airworthiness Office / Civil Aviation Department Headquarters / Flight Standards and Airworthiness Division

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

Registration of EPIRBs and PLBs is a safety precaution and not a mandatory requirement.

Registration of EPIRBs and PLBs can respectively be made by using form OFCA F210 and form OFCA F321 as supplied by the Office of the Communications Authority.

Registration of ELTs is required even though the ELTs may not be fitted to an aircraft. Registration is to be made using form DCA 406 as supplied by the Airworthiness Office of the Civil Aviation Department.

6.2 Forms

Online beacon registration forms are available at:

- EPIRBs: http://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/common/licensing/F210.pdf
- ELTs: http://www.cad.gov.hk/application/DCA406.pdf
- PLBs: http://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/common/licensing/F321.pdf

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