

§ 80.1059

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which clearly shows the device is operating. The indicator must be activated by the RF output power.

(e) The equipment must operate when hand held or when floating in water after storage for extended periods under marine environmental conditions.

(f) The switch used to activate the EPIRB must indicate the state of the equipment (on-off) by the physical position of the switch. A guard must be provided to prevent inadvertent operation.

(g) The equipment case must be waterproof and resealable without special tools or sealing compounds. EPIRB operation must not be degraded by submersion in sea water for a period of 24 hours.

(h) The EPIRB must float in fresh water with the antenna vertical and completely out of the water.

(i) Vacuum tubes are not permitted in EPIRB's. The EPIRB must meet the requirements after extended periods of inaction while carried in vessels and subjected to marine environmental conditions. Operation into any load from open to short must not result in continuous degradation of performance.

(j) The exterior of the equipment must have no sharp edges or projections. Means must be provided to secure the EPIRB to a survival craft or person.

(k) Operating instructions understandable by untrained personnel must be permanently displayed on the equipment. It must indicate that the device is "to be used solely for distress purposes."

(l) The equipment must have no exposed areas or terminals that could ignite flammable gases or materials.

(m) The omnidirectional antenna must be securely attached to the case and capable of being stowed without being damaged.

(n) The equipment must meet the technical standards after being dropped into water from a height of 6 meters (20 feet).

(o) The EPIRB must meet the technical standards when plunged into sea water at +20 degrees Celsius after storage at a temperature of +50 degrees Celsius.

(p) If testing of an EPIRB with Coast Guard coordination is not possible, brief operational tests are authorized provided the tests are conducted within the first five minutes of any hour for not more than 10 seconds.

(q) The EPIRB must automatically turn off after 24 hours ± 5 percent. It must be possible to restart the transmission sequence by placing the on-off switch momentarily in the off position and returning it to the on position.

(r) The EPIRB must be equipped with a visual indication of a low battery condition.

(s) The EPIRB must have a designation that indicates it is a "Class C" EPIRB.

[51 FR 31213, Sept. 2, 1986, as amended at 58 FR 33344, June 17, 1993]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 68 FR 46974, Aug. 7, 2003, § 80.1057 was removed, effective October 6, 2003.

§ 80.1059 Special requirements for Class S EPIRB stations.

(a) A Class S EPIRB station must be able to float or be permanently secured to a survival craft.

(b) A Class S EPIRB able to float must meet the following:

(1) Be watertight and float in calm water with at least 5 cm (2 in.) of the EPIRB out of the water and the base of the antenna at least 5 cm (2 in.) above the water, with the antenna in a vertical position completely above the water surface;

(2) Be ballasted to right itself from a position 90 degrees from its upright position in one second or less;

(3) Meet the requirements in § 80.1053 (a)(4) through (9) after free fall into water 3 times from a height of 20 meters (67 ft.).

(c) A Class S EPIRB intended to be permanently secured to a survival craft is not required to float in water.

(d) Additionally, all Class S EPIRB's must meet the following:

(1) Be capable only of manual activation by an on-off switch protected by a guard to prevent inadvertent operation;

(2) Be designed to be deployed, its controls actuated, or its antenna erected, each by a single action task which can be performed by either hand;

(3) Meet the requirements in §§ 80.1053 (a)(4) through (a)(8) and (b) through (i) of this part;

(4) Class S EPIRBs may provide either continuous or intermittent operation. If the EPIRB is designed for intermittent operation, the duty cycle must be from 50 to 60 per cent and the period two minutes plus or minus 12 seconds. In either event, the EPIRB must meet the power output characteristics described in § 80.1053(a)(8) of this part;

(5) If testing of an EPIRB with Coast Guard coordination is not possible, brief operational tests are authorized provided the tests are conducted within the first five minutes of any hour and are not longer than three audio sweeps or one second whichever is longer;

(6) Have a designation that indicates it is a "Class S" EPIRB.

(e) Applications for certification must include a letter from the manufacturer stating that the EPIRB meets the requirements in paragraphs (b) and (d), or (c) and (d) of this section.

[51 FR 31213, Sept. 2, 1986, as amended at 56 FR 11517, Mar. 19, 1991; 63 FR 36607, July 7, 1998]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 68 FR 46974, Aug. 7, 2003, § 80.1059 was revised, effective October 6, 2003. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 80.1059 Special requirements for Class S EPIRB stations.

Class S EPIRBs shall not be manufactured, imported, or sold in the United States on or after February 1, 2003. Operation of Class S EPIRB stations shall be prohibited after December 31, 2006. New Class S EPIRBs will no longer be certified by the Commission. Existing Class S EPIRBs must be operated as certified.

§ 80.1061 Special requirements for 406.025 MHz EPIRBs.

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph (b) of this section, 406.025 MHz EPIRBs must meet all the technical and performance standards contained in the Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services document titled "RTCM Recommended Standards for 406 MHz Satellite Emergency Position-Indicating Radiobeacons (EPIRBs)" dated July 31, 1987, with editorial updates of December 31, 1987 (RTCM Recommended Standards). This

RTCM document is incorporated by reference in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a). The document is available for inspection at Commission headquarters in Washington, DC or may be obtained from the Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services, Post Office Box 19087, Washington, DC 20036.

(b) The 406.025 MHz EPIRB must contain as an integral part a "homing" beacon operating only on 121.500 MHz that meets all the requirements described in the RTCM Recommended Standards document described in paragraph (a) of this section. The 121.500 MHz "homing" beacon must have a continuous duty cycle that may be interrupted during the transmission of the 406.025 MHz signal only. Additionally, at least 30 percent of the total power emitted during any transmission cycle must be contained within plus or minus 30 Hz of the carrier frequency.

(c) Prior to submitting a certification application for a 406 MHz radiobeacon, the radiobeacon must be certified by a test facility recognized by one of the COSPAS/SARSAT Partners that the equipment satisfies the design characteristics associated with the measurement methods described in Appendix B of the RTCM Recommended Standards.

Additionally, the radiobeacon must be certified by a test facility recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard to certify that the equipment complies with the U.S. Coast Guard environmental and operational requirements associated with the test procedures described in Appendix A of the RTCM Recommended Standards. Information regarding the recognized test facilities may be obtained from Commandant (G-MVI), U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 2nd Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001.

(1) After a 406.025 MHz EPIRB has been certified by the recognized test facilities the following information must be submitted in duplicate to the Commandant (G-MVI), U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 2nd Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001:

(i) The name of the manufacturer or grantee and model number of the EPIRB;

(ii) Copies of the certificate and test data obtained from the test facility recognized by a COSPAS/SARSAT