

CCS

# Circular

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To: Relevant departments of CCS Headquarters, CCS Branch & office, CCS Surveyor, SR Company

## **Notice on the change of 406 MHz EPIRB channel**

The quantity of 406MHz EPIRB is on continuous growth as the a. m. beacon is widely used in the world in recent years, and the communication traffic on the frequency channel is approaching peak capacity and exhibiting a saturation tendency.

COSPAS-SARSAT has developed a CHANNEL ASSIGNMENT PLAN (C/S T.012) for the 406 beacon, to ensure that the number of 406MHz Beacons is suitable for operation in the given channel and does not generate a traffic load in excess of channel capacity. This plan specifies that the carrier frequency of new beacon models to be type approved in the future. The performance standard for 406 MHz specified by IMO Resolution A.810(19) has been amended by Resolution MSC.120(74), which defines that the carrier frequency of beacon is to be changed. This Society had noted this to relevant parties by Circular No.(2002)005/Total

No.055” issued by CCS Technical Management Dept.

The quantity of the operating /activated 406 MHz EPIRB will be evaluated by COSPAS—SARSAT, and the Channel Assignment Plan will be amended as required on an annual basis. The details of the a.m. Plan can be found on the website of the COSPAS—SARSAT. The following carrier frequency channels have been opened to public now according to the a.m. Plan issued in Oct. 2010 by COSPAS—SARSAT (see Attachment 2):

CHANNEL B: 406.025MHz (1982—2002.1.1) ,

CHANNEL C: 406.028MHz (2000.1.1—2007.1.1) ,

CHANNEL F: 406.037MHz (2004.1.1—2012.1.1) ,

CHANNEL G: 406.040MHz (2010.1.1—pending) ,

Please be noted that from 1 Jan. 2002, the CHANNEL B ( 406.025MHz) has been closed for type approval of new beacon models, and the rest may be deduced by analogy.

It is found that some misunderstandings on the beacon’s frequency channel change occurred when some work units or staff carried out the beacon type approval, site audit and survey, as well as the beacon test. In view of this, our Society hereby raises the key points (for carrying out the beacon type approval, site audit and survey, test) to relevant parties on the change of beacon frequency channel as follows:

1. Arrangement to the beacon applying for CCS type approval

CCS surveyors shall confirm that the beacon has been type approved and certificated by COSPAS—SARSAT, and based on the Channel Assignment Plan, shall check that the frequency channel of the beacon applying for approval is same as what is specified on the approval certificate of COSPAS—SARSAT.

2. When carrying out the beacon checking during the initial survey of new building or periodical surveys of ships in service, our surveyor shall pay attention to the a.m. requirements (change of beacon's frequency channel) to confirm on site the correctness of test facilities and the test report /certificate of the authorized body.

3. The current test equipment for 406MHz EPIRB should be checked by SR companies approved by this society, if not compliant with the test for a.m. frequency (406.025MHz, 406.028 MHz, 406.037 MHz and 406.040 MHz) as mentioned, it should be updated or renewed at once. During the approval audits to SR companies, this society's auditor should pay significant attention and checked to the above requirement.

This circular will enter into force from the date of issue.

For any questions from implementation, please contact with the relevant departments of this Headquarters, i.e.: Classed Newbuildings Department, Classed ship in Service Department or Technology Management Department.

Attachment:

1. The forecast of 406MHz EPIRB population.
2. “CHANNEL ASSIGNMENT TABLE to 406 MHz Beacon” issued by COSPAS—SARSAT.

附件 1.

406 MHz 卫星应急示位标 配备数量递增图

