1. REGULATIONS

1.1 General

According to the Finnish legislation, all transmitters must be licensed. This applies also to the Cospas-Sarsat beacons. Registration mechanism is inbuilt to the licensing system (EPIRBs and PLBs), whenever a radio license is issued, the beacons will also be registered and essential details of beacons and their license holders will automatically be available for SAR authorities over the Internet. All beacons must be coded and registered.

1.2 EPIRBs

EPIRBs (406 MHz) are mandatory onboard SOLAS vessels as stated in SOLAS Convention. In addition, there are national requirements for certain vessels to carry 406 MHz EPIRBs. Vessels falling outside mandatory requirements may voluntarily be fitted with EPIRB(s). This applies also to pleasure craft.

1.3 ELTs

Finland is mandating aircraft under EASA rules to be equipped with ELT or PLB in compliance with European Commission Regulation (EU) No 965/2012. General aviation aircraft under national rules are not required to be equipped with any emergency beacon, but mandating at least a PLB was taking place at 1.4.2018. The Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom) keeps a registry of ELTs for Finnish aircraft. The register is kept of the 406 MHz ELTs of the aircraft and their liferaft.

1.4 PLBs

The use of 406 MHz PLBs is allowed in Finland. The use and possession of a PLB requires a national radio license. The license procedure takes care of registration and information exchange between the licensing authority and SAR authority. Finnish PLB license has specific license conditions together with information of actions in case of a false alert.

1.4.1 National Beacon Regulations for Serial-Coded PLBs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administration</th>
<th>For Terrestrial Applications</th>
<th>In Maritime Environment</th>
<th>On Aircraft</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Country Recognises PLB Activations</td>
<td>Country Recognises PLB Activations</td>
<td>Country Recognises PLB Activations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**

2.1 **EPIRB Coding Methods**

EPIRBs shall be programmed with the ship's MMSI number. MMSI number includes the country code #230 (=MID). The recommended user protocol is any of the international protocols, which makes the highest position accuracy utilization possible. The preference is "Maritime User protocol with MMSI". The Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom) as licensing authority does not control the programming/coding result.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>User Protocols</th>
<th>Location Protocols</th>
<th>RLS (Return Link Service)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MMSI</td>
<td>MMSI</td>
<td>Serial Number Assigned by Competent Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio Call Sign</td>
<td>Radio Call Sign</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPIRB with Serial Number</td>
<td>EPIRB with Serial Number</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User Location</td>
<td>Standard Location</td>
<td>National Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2 **ELT Coding Methods**

ELT coding methods in Finland are described in the table below. The recommended protocol is any of the allowed international protocols, which makes the highest position accuracy utilization. The operator or manufacturer/service provider is in charge of defining the code according the protocol being used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>User Protocols</th>
<th>Location Protocols</th>
<th>RLS (Return Link Service)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serial User</td>
<td>Aviation User</td>
<td>User Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELT with Serial Number</td>
<td>Aircraft Operator Designator and Serial Number</td>
<td>Aircraft 24-bit Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y*</td>
<td>Y*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: * Only when used in liferaft or portable ELTs.

2.3 **PLB Coding Methods**

PLB fitted with internal position device (such as GPS) must be programmed according to the National Location protocol. Coding must include the country code #230 and a unique national serialized number from the database of the Finnish Transport and Communication Agency (Traficom).

PLB with no internal position device must be programmed according to the Serial User protocol. Coding must include the country code #230 and a unique national serialized number from the database of the Finnish Transport and Communication Agency (Traficom).
3. **LIST OF BEACON MODELS TYPE APPROVED BY ADMINISTRATION**

There is no type approval activity left in Finland regarding beacons. Finland accepts Cospas-Sarsat type approval or conformity assessment procedure in accordance with European Community regulations.

4. **BEACON TESTING REGULATION**

For EPIRBs

The beacon should be checked annually according to the MSC.1/Circ.1040/Rev.1/25 May 2012 and an Annual Test Report should be issued by SBM provider.

On SOLAS vessels the beacon should be maintained from an approved SBM provider at internals not exceeding five years according to the MSC/Circ.1039/28 May 2002 and a Shore Based Maintenance Report should be issued.

If manufacturer is providing more than five years battery change interval, vessels falling under national requirements should perform maintenance according to the MSC/Circ.1039/28 May 2002 when battery is replaced.

For ELTs

See AIP-Finland GEN 1.5.6.2 [https://www.ais.fi/ais/aip/fi/index.htm](https://www.ais.fi/ais/aip/fi/index.htm)

For PLBs

Not available.

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

The point of contact for beacon matters is:
- The Finnish Transport and Communication Agency (Traficom)

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

6. **BEACON REGISTRATION**

6.1 Regulation

See section 1.

6.2 Forms


- END OF SECTION -