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GENERAL NOTICE

Independent Communications Authority of South Africa

General Notice

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GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 243 OF 2007

PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON (PLB) REGULATION

Electronic Communications Act No 36 of 2005

REGULATIONS IN TERMS OF SECTION 4(1)

In terms of section 4(1) of the **Electronic Communications Act No 36 of 2005**, ICASA hereby approve and publish these regulations.

Mr Paris Mashile
Chairman of Independent Communications Authority of South Africa

1. DEFINITIONS

In these regulations, a word or expression shall have the meaning assigned to it in terms of the Telecommunications Act, (Act No. 103 of 1996), as amended, and unless the context indicates otherwise.

“PLB” means a Personal Locator Beacon operating within the SCOSPAS-SARSAT satellite service; and

“COSPAS-SARSAT satellite service” means a search and rescue system of polar-orbiting satellites designed to locate distress beacons transmitting in the 406 MHz band and on other frequencies.

2. APPLICATION

These regulations shall be applicable for individuals in remote areas as a means to alert others of an emergency situation and to aid search and rescue personnel to locate those in distress. These regulations further make provision for the registration and licensing of PLB's.

3. FREQUENCY

- (1) The frequencies 406-406.100 MHz have been exclusively reserved for distress beacons operating with the COSPAS-SARSAT satellite service.
- (2) The use of these frequencies shall be restricted to transmissions of distress and safety communications.
- (3) PLB's operating on these frequencies shall use phase modulation.

4. EQUIPMENT AUTHORIZATION

All PLBs shall satisfy all the technical and testing requirements as detailed in the COSPAS-SARSAT documents C/S T.001 (406 MHz beacon specification) and T. 007 (406 MHz beacon type-approval standard).

5. DATA PROGRAMMING PROTOCOL

- (1) PLB's may be of location or non-location types
 - (a) The Cospas-Sarsat Serial User protocol shall be used for PLB programming and shall include the beacon's unique serial number as issued by the manufacturer.

6. FEES

- (1) The application fee shall be R 210.00 which will be non-refundable.
- (2) The fee in respect of change of ownership request for a PLB shall be R100.00 (one hundred rand), per application.
- (3) The fee in respect of a request to amend PLB registration particulars shall be R100.00 (one hundred rand), per request.
- (4) Registration fee shall be a once off fee of R100.00 (One hundred Rand)

7. REGISTRATION PROCESS

Registration of PLB's is mandatory and it shall be the responsibility of the supplier/distributor to ensure that the PLB is registered with the Authority using the Registration Form attached hereto as Annexure A. The Authority shall forward the necessary registration to the custodian of the master Search and Rescue ("SAR") database.

8. ABUSE OF PLB'S

Misuse of PLB's shall constitute an abuse of South African Search and Rescue facilities and shall be a contravention in terms of the Electronic Communications Act. Any person found guilty of such an offence shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding R5 000.00 (five thousand rand) or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or to both such fine and imprisonment at the court's discretion.

Annexure A

PLB (PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON)

406 MHz COSPAS-SARSAT SOUTH AFRICAN DISTRESS BEACON

REGISTRATION FORM

1. BEACON DATA: (please check)

- New Beacon Registration;
- Change Beacon Registration;
- Change of Ownership;
- Change of Information;

Manufacturer:.....Model No:.....
 Distributor/Retailer:.....

BEACON IDENTIFICATION CODE 15 CHARACTER HEXADECIMAL
MUST BE PROVIDED BELOW

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

2. OWNERS INFORMATION:

Name:.....
 Address:.....
 Telephone:.....Fax:.....
 Mobile
 Phone:.....
 E-mail:.....

3. EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

Primary

Name:.....
 Telephone: (work)
 Telephone: (home)
 Cellphone:
 Fax:

Alternative

Name:.....
 Telephone: (work)
 Telephone: (home)
 Cellphone:
 Fax: