



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI



**F. No.:25-63011/1/2023-NT-DGS**

**Dated: 15.02.2023**

**Merchant Shipping Notice No. 04 of 2023**

**Subject: Registration and de-registration of Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs)- reg.**

1. Recalling Regulation IV/ 7.1 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974, as amended, AND Merchant Shipping Distress and Safety Radio Communication Rules 1995, requires that every ship shall be provided with Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) shall be type approved by the Administration and shall conform to appropriate performance standards not inferior to those adopted by the IMO.
2. Recalling also Regulation IV/ 5-1 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974, as amended, requires that each Contracting Government undertakes to ensure that suitable arrangements are made for registering GMDSS identities and for making information on these identities available to Rescue Coordination Centers (RCCs) on a 24-hour basis.
3. Recognizing that every ship EPIRBs requires to be programmed with ship's Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) or Call Sign, and the resultant beacon unique identification codes i.e. 15 Hexadecimal Identification (15 Hex ID) for first-generation EPIRBs and 23 Hexadecimal Identification (23 Hex ID) for second-generation EPIRBs needs to be registered with the Indian National Mission Control Center (INMCC), Bangalore.
4. Considering the requirement, the Directorate General of Shipping had issued circulars and executive orders time to time to comply with requirements.
5. Noticing the fact that new acquired ships from foreign flag, sold of ships to foreign flag and scrape of ships in Indian scrapyards are not strictly complying with the process of registering or de-registering the EPIRBs, which hindering and confusing for initiation of Search and Rescue (SAR) operations carried out by Maritime Rescue Coordination Centers (MRCCs).

  
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9वीं मंजिल, बीटा बिल्डिंग, आई थिंक टेक्नो कैम्पस, कांजुर गाँव रोड, कांजुरमार्ग (पूर्व) मुंबई- 400042

9th Floor, BETA Building, I-Think Techno Campus, Kanjur Village Road, Kanjurmarg (E), Mumbai-400042

फ़ोन/Tel No.: +91-22-2575 2040/1/2/3 फ़ैक्स/Fax.: +91-22-2575 2029/35 ई-मेल/Email: dgship-dgs@nic.in वेबसाइट/Website: www.dgshipping.gov.in

6. Recognizing the need of registering or de-registering the EPIRBs, the Directorate General of Shipping urges to radio surveyors, classification societies, shipping companies, ship owners, ship operators, shipmasters and scrapyards to ensure strict compliance of registration and de-registration process of EPIRBs on board ships.

7. This is issued with the approval of Director General of Shipping and Additional Secretary to the Govt. of India.



15/02/2023

(Shri. Balunkeshor Mohapatra)  
Sr. Radio Surveyor-cum-ADG (Tech)