

“Out on the cricket pitch, good skippers take the lead, I should know, I’ve played with some of the best. But on my boat, I’m the skipper and it’s my responsibility to ensure that my boat is carrying the right safety equipment.

That’s why I have a 406 MHz Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) for my boat.

From 1 February 2009, satellites will no longer process distress alerts from 121.5 MHz distress beacons and only 406 MHz EPIRBs will be detected. This change can impact your life and the lives of your passengers in an emergency situation.

Don’t leave it to the last minute, avoid the rush and upgrade to a 406 MHz EPIRB during 2008. Make sure you don’t get caught out.”

Matthew Hayden
Australian Opening
Test Batsman



This is a national safe boating initiative supported by Australia’s marine agencies. For more visit beacons.amsa.gov.au, www.nmsc.gov.au or www.safeboating.org.au

You can also call the beacon advice line on 1800 406 406



Australian Government

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

National Marine Safety Committee

www.nmsc.gov.au



Make the switch to 406

Don't get caught out



Australian Government
Australian Maritime Safety Authority

National Marine Safety Committee

www.nmsc.gov.au





A 406 is Better Because...

- It is smarter, faster and safer with a global accuracy within 5 km. If your EPIRB has a built in GPS, your location can be pinpointed to within 120 metres.
- An EPIRB's digital signal identifies its owner and may be detected within 3 minutes of activation.

It Can Save Your Life

It's in the interests of your life and the lives of your loved ones that you carry an EPIRB. It's the law. Most boats traveling more than two nautical miles from land must carry an EPIRB.

Remember, an EPIRB is only for use in life-threatening situations. In the event of an emergency, you should first signal other people in your area using radios or other methods of attracting attention. Mobile phones can be used too, but don't rely on them as they may be out of range, have low batteries or become water damaged.

Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons



Make Sure it's a 406*

Make sure you purchase a 406 MHz distress beacon designed for maritime use labeled EPIRB (AS/NZS 4280.1). An EPIRB is designed to operate most effectively when activated in the water, it is required to run for a minimum of 48 hours and float upright when deployed.

Personal Locator Beacons



A personal locator beacon (PLB) is an additional piece of safety equipment and can't be substituted for an EPIRB. A PLB is not required to float in a manner that keeps the antenna above the water, which means that a survivor must ensure the beacon is supported clear of the water. Also, a PLB is only required to operate for a 24 hour minimum compared with a 48 hour minimum for an EPIRB.

Registration is Free

It is vital that you register your EPIRB with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). Registration is FREE. Every 406 MHz EPIRB has a unique identification code which is part of its signal. When registered, this code provides information about your boat, your contact details and emergency contacts, increasing your chance of being found earlier. Registration also allows false alarms to be resolved quickly with a radio or phone call.

If you change any information on your registration (such as phone number, address, bought a new boat, etc.) You MUST update your registration details with AMSA.

Free Disposal

Beacons need to be responsibly disposed of, in case they accidentally activate and trigger a false alarm. Ensure you refer to the documentation that comes with your beacon. If in any doubt, check with the manufacturer. You can also dispose of your unwanted beacons free of charge by placing them in the collection bins in any Battery World store around Australia.

Don't Get Caught Out – Make the Switch to a 406

From 1 February 2009, satellites will no longer process distress alerts from 121.5 MHz distress beacons. From this date, only 406 MHz EPIRBs will be detected.

So avoid the rush, make the switch to a 406 in 2008.

**Neither the NMSC nor AMSA endorse any specific brand of 406MHz beacon. There are a range of 406MHz EPIRBs on the market and your local marine retailer will be able to provide advice on what is best for you.*