

**JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE  
EMERGENCY BEACON REGISTRATIONS  
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0295**

NOAA operates and maintains the United States 406 MHz Beacon Registration Database System. Persons buying 406 MHz emergency radio beacons are required to register them with NOAA prior to installation. These requirements are contained in Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations at [47 CFR 80.1061](#), [47 CFR 87.199](#) and [47 CFR 95.1402](#).

The system allows beacons owners to register their 406 MHz emergency distress beacon online or by mailing/faxing registration forms to the appropriate location. Four registration forms are used to allow the public to register their 406 MHz emergency radio beacons with NOAA. The EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) form is used for nautical beacons. The ELT (Emergency Locator Transmitter) form is used for aircraft beacons. The PLB (Personal Locator Beacon) is used to register portable beacons carried by individuals. Ship Security Alerting System (SSAS) beacons are carried aboard ships, similar to EPIRBs and are used in the event of an emergency situation such as piracy or terrorism. All forms include contact information (for both owner/operator and emergency contact), descriptive material of the element in distress, and other information deemed useful to Search and Rescue (SAR) authorities.

These forms have been revised to address recommendations received from a NOAA Independent Review Team for enhancing existing controls and/or introducing new controls to ensure the accuracy of beacon registration information. The changes include providing space for a pre-printed label (to be supplied by beacon manufacturers at time of sale), separating the space reserved for the beacon ID (unique identification number) into three groups of five characters, additional categories to allow the owner/operator to more clearly identify the reason for submitting the form (i.e., new registration, change of ownership, etc.) and additional descriptive categories to provide details of the element in distress. All changes on the forms are highlighted in yellow.

It is imperative that the registration forms be understandable and straightforward to aid the owner/operator in accurately providing the necessary information. The changes described above are aimed at enhancing the accuracy of the registration data for the sole purpose of providing SAR authorities with the best possible information to facilitate a rescue.

There is no additional time burden for completion of the changed forms. The average response time per registration remains 15 minutes or less.