



406 MHz Beacon Registration Database (RGDB)

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Apurve Mathur

ERT, Inc.

RGDB Lead







Overview

- Registration Database (RGDB) updates
 - ELT(DT) beacons
 - 23-hex second-generation beacons (SGBs)
- IHDB Feedback Program
 - Feedback Process Overview
 - RCC Feedback Examples and Discussion
 - Statistics
- How RCCs Can Help Owners
- RGDB SAR user account access and password assistance



RGDB Changes – ELT(DT) & 23-Hex Beacons

- **The RGDB has been updated to accept ELT(DT) registrations and will be ready to accept 23-hex second generation beacon (SGB) registrations once SGBs are approved.** 
- **All registration forms have been updated to allow registration of 23-hex IDs after SGBs are approved.** 
- PLB registrations now include fields for radio call sign, vessel MMSI number, AIS MMSI number, and aircraft tail number
- EPIRB registrations also now include an AIS MMSI number field



IHDB Feedback Program Process - Part I

- IHDB records are queried monthly
- The results are compared to the RGDB data to remove registrations that were updated AFTER the incident
- The remaining results are individually reviewed for information that may be useful for follow-up
- These items are then assigned for work by RGDB staff



IHDB Feedback Program Process - Part II

- When *new owner* information is provided, RGDB staff members attempt to contact the previous owner for confirmation and the new owner is instructed to enter a new registration online
- When beacon status is provided, the RGDB attempts to confirm it with the registered owner
- Other information from the IHDB feedback is confirmed with the registered owner when possible (emergency contacts, tail numbers, etc.)



IHDB Feedback Program Process - Part III

- Registration information *cannot be updated without permission* from the owner of the registration. Therefore, the goal of the follow-up process is to confirm the IHDB information with the current registered owner.
- Transfers of beacons necessitate a completely new registration by the new owner, and only the beacon status of the old registration will be updated.



Recent Examples of Good RCC Feedback

- Registered owner sold the vessel in 2019. Contacted that owner [NAME] XXX-XXX-XXXX, he also sold the vessel back in 2021 and was unsure who he sold it to, just that they took the vessel to North Carolina.
- EPIRB is no longer in use and located in a landfill. There is a new vessel owner, [NAME] , Phone Number: XXX-XXX-XXXX, Email: [EMAIL].
- Latest owner of the vessel [VESSEL NAME] is [NAME] XXX-XXX-XXXX.
- A POC for this aircraft is [NAME] and can be contacted at XXX-XXX-XXXX
- ONE OF THE PHONE NUMBERS UNDER CONTACTS XXX-XXX-XXXX FOR [NAME] IS NOT ACCURATE.
- PILOT IS [NAME] XXX-XXX-XXXX
- Original Owner: [NAME] is deceased. The brother picked up at XXX-XXX-XXXX and mentioned the PLB was given to a new owner.
- Beacon is not registered or registration is incorrect. A POC for this beacon's registration [NAME] can be reached at XXX-XXX-XXXX.
- Aircraft registration (tail) number is not accurate. Tail number for this ELT should be [XXXXX].



Recent Examples of Less Useful RCC Feedback

Somewhat Useful

- Vessel under new ownership, registration information not updated.
- Registered owner SOLD vessel with EPIRB.
- Plotting near DORCHESTER PUBLIC WORKS LANDFILL.
- Contacted registered owner who stated that he sold the vessel in 2008 to an individual in Biloxi, MS.
- BEACON WAS RETURNED TO AMAZON.

Not Useful

- Beacon is not registered or registration is incorrect.
- A POC authorized to release beacon owner's contact information could not be reached. A request was made to inform the owner that the beacon needs to be updated.



Common IHDB Accuracy Feedback Mistakes

- Do not copy Case Result or Case Summary section information to the “Comments on Registration Information” field. Only enter information about the current registration accuracy or new owner or beacon status in the Registration Information Usage and Accuracy section.
- If phone numbers are disconnected, be sure to note which number(s) is affected.
- Do not mark the registration information as inaccurate and then enter a comment elsewhere in the record that the registration is accurate. If the registration is accurate, mark it properly and omit the comment.
- Do not comment “the registration is not registered or registration is incorrect” without explaining what the inaccuracy is.
- Do not mark the registration as inaccurate if the beacon registration was not verified.



Feedback Statistics

In January 2024, of the 326 IHDB sites where one of the three RGDB accuracy checkboxes were marked “inaccurate”:

- 76 sites had feedback comments that were somewhat useful and were assigned for follow-up; 250 had no usable information.
- 27 (of the 76) had contact information for a new owner or information contact.
- 59 sites (of the 326) used the “Comments on Registration Information” field, which is the primary field for recording registration related feedback. Almost all had good information for us to use in follow-up.



How RCCs Can Help Owners with Registrations

- Collect contact information—name, phone number, email address, mailing address—for the new beacon owner *and record it in the IHDB “Comments on Registration Information” field*
- Provide the RGDB url to the beacon owner, preferably in writing: beaconregistration.noaa.gov
- Inform/remind owners that registration **is required** and can make a difference in a distress situation.
- If the information is not recorded in the IHDB, it cannot be used to improve the accuracy of the database.



RGDB SAR User Account Access

SAR Controllers must request account access through the appropriate USCG or USAF liaison:

USCG

LCDR Matthew A Carlton
SARSAT Liaison Officer

Matthew.A.Carlton@uscg.mil

Phone: 202-372-2089

AFRCC/AKRCC

Dan Conley, USAF
AFRCC Chief of Operations

Danny.Conley@us.af.mil

Phone: 850-283-5688



Questions & Contact Info

Apurve Mathur

RGDB Lead

Email: Apurve.Mathur@noaa.gov

Phone: 301-817-4542