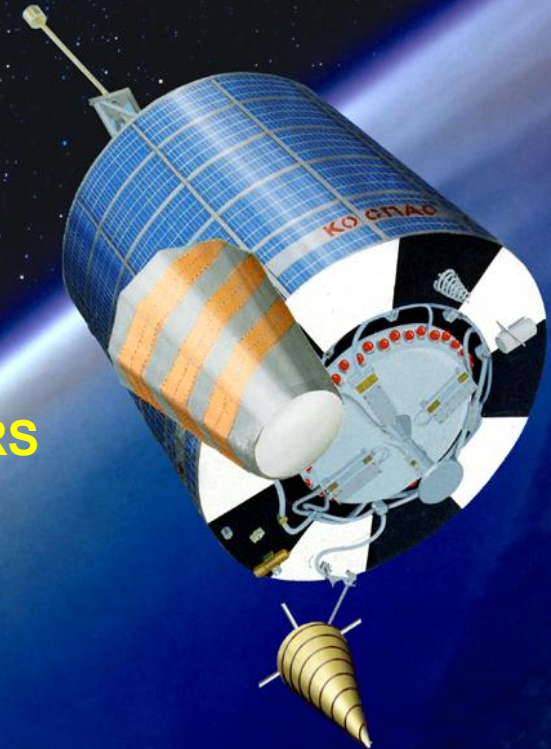
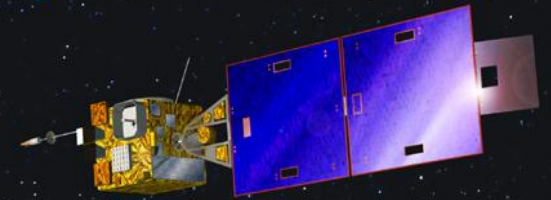


# Beacon Manufacturers Workshop

## 8 May 2026



### PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE 2026 SURVEY OF BEACON MANUFACTURERS

Andrey Zhitenev  
Cospas-Sarsat Secretariat

# Preliminary Results of the 2026 Survey of Beacon Manufacturers

# Beacon Manufacturer Survey Objectives

- Collect from beacon manufacturers production figures for previous to understand industry status and market trends
- For frequency channel management purposes, such as planning frequency channel opening and closure
- Collect information for the evaluation of current beacon population and as an input for the model to estimate forecast for future years
- Collect information on planned type-approval activity for planning the Secretariat work

# 2026 Survey - Web-Based Forms

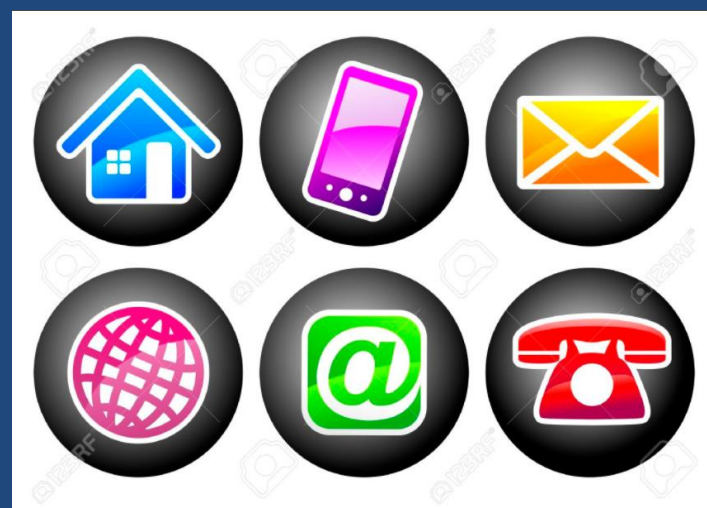
<https://www.cospas-sarsat.int/en/documents-pro/documents/beacon-manufacturer-survey-2026>



The screenshot shows the COSPAS-SARSAT website interface. At the top left, the logo reads "COSPAS-SARSAT.INT PRO" with the tagline "INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE SYSTEM FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE" and "406<sup>TM</sup> DISTRESS ALERTING SERVICE". To the right is the "COSPAS-SARSAT" logo. Further right are language options for "Français" and "Русский", a Facebook icon, and a "COSPAS-SARSAT REGULAR" button. A navigation bar contains five red buttons: "SYSTEM", "BEACONS", "DOCUMENTS", "MEETINGS", and "CONTACT LISTS", each with a dropdown arrow. The main content area features a text link: "If you require a PDF version of this form, please find it here: [https://www.cospas-sarsat.int/images/cospas\\_sarsat/pdf\\_uploads/2026\\_B-mans\\_Survey\\_Form.pdf](https://www.cospas-sarsat.int/images/cospas_sarsat/pdf_uploads/2026_B-mans_Survey_Form.pdf)". Below this is a large, empty light gray rectangular box. At the bottom, the title "2026 Survey of Cospas-Sarsat 406 MHz Beacon Manufacturers" is displayed.

# Statistics for the 2026 Survey Submission

- 42 beacon manufacturers
- online web form : 41%
- email : 59%
  
- geographical distribution:
  - Europe: **41%**
  - North America: **33%**
  - Rest of the World: **26%**



in 2025 ...



## 2025 Survey Highlights

about **209,000**

...beacons were produced Worldwide in 2025

- about 97,000 EPIRBs, about 28,000 ELTs and about 84,000 of new PLBs were produced (respectively, 46%, 13% and 41% of all beacons produced in 2025)
- 1.9% decrease in annual production since 2024

# Manufacturers Production Volumes



Annual production	Count of manufacturers in 2024	% to Total in 2024	Count of manufacturers in 2025	% to ALL in 2025
"0" production	6	14.6%	10	23.8%
1-499 units	18	43.9%	16	38.1%
500-999 units	1	2.4%	4	9.5%
1000-5000 units	8	19.5%	3	7.1%
> 5000 units	8	19.5%	9	21.4%
<b>ALL</b>	41	100.0%	<b>42</b>	100.0%

For 2025, 14 of 42 surveyed beacon manufacturers reported a decrease in production in comparison with 2024, and ten manufacturers reported zero production in 2025.



# 2026 Survey Results:

## Detailed Distribution of Production in 2025

Beacon type	2025	% of Total Beacon Type	% of Global Production Total	% of Global Production Change since 2023
	Global Production, units			
Total ELTs , including:	27,501	100%	13%	2%
- ELT(AF) and ELT(DT)	18,792	68%	9%	20%
- ELT(AP)	618	2%	0%	-64%
- ELT(AD) and ELT(S)	8,091	29%	4%	-16%
Total EPIRBs, including:	96,943	100%	46%	5%
- EPIRB Float Free and -VDR	46,225	48%	22%	10%
- EPIRB Non-Float Free	50,718	52%	24%	18%
Total PLBs	84,358	100%	40%	14%
Total of Global Production for all beacon types	<b>208,802</b>	100%	100%	8%

Beacon manufacturers indicated that in 2025 they produced:

- over **60,000** of FGB RLS-enabled beacons,
- over **2,500** FGB and SGB ELT(DT)s, and
- about **1,000** SGBs.

# 2026 King's Award to Enterprises for Innovation



In May 2026 Ocean Signal Ltd was awarded a prestigious King's Award to enterprises for innovation.

Congratulations to Simon Nolan, Ocean Signal and ACR teams!

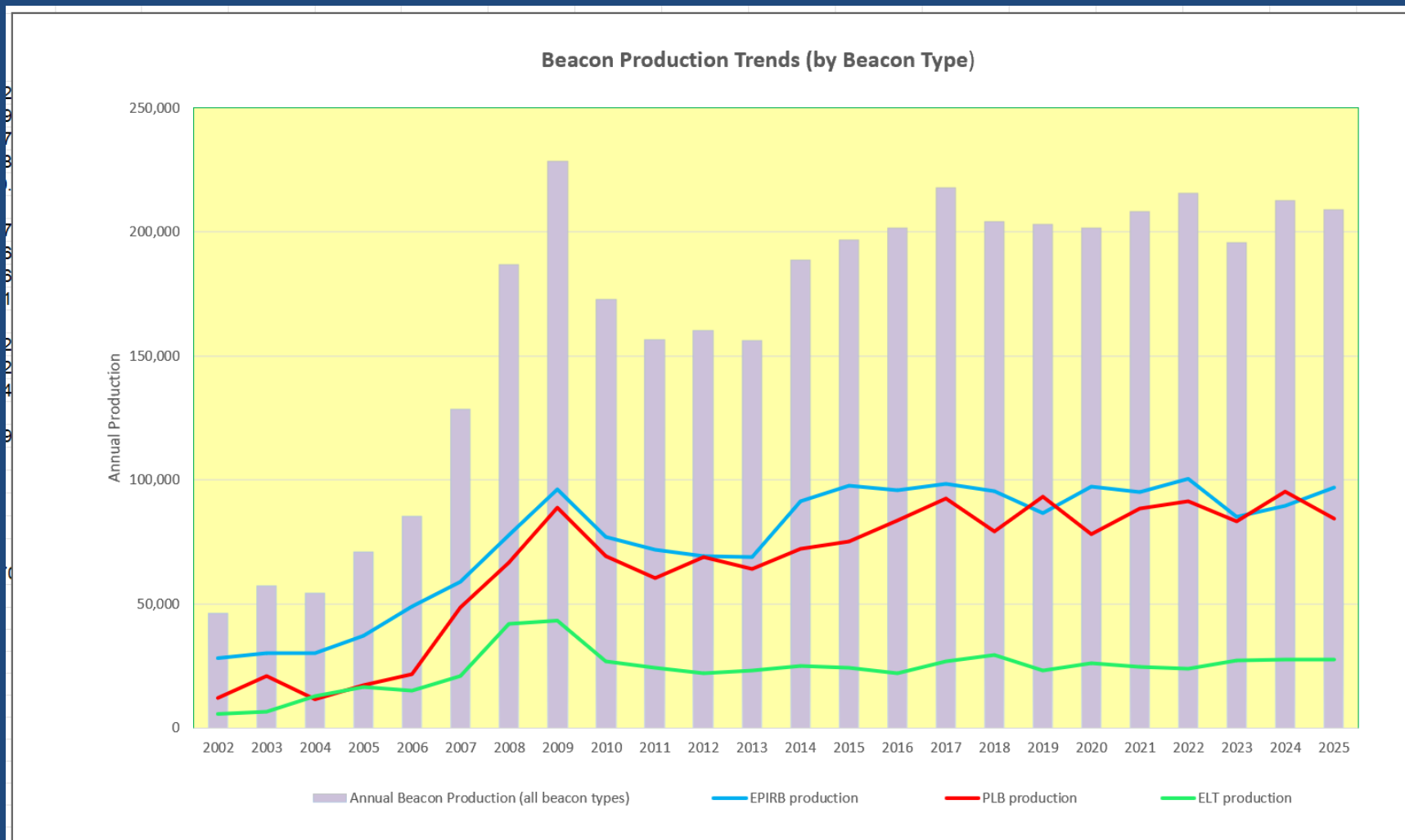
# 2026 Survey Results: Location Protocol Beacons

Beacon Type	2025 annual production of LP-beacons, units	Ratio of LP-beacons to all beacons produced (by beacon type), %	Ratio to all LP-beacons, %
EPIRBs	91,834	94.7%	46.1%
PLBs	83,924	99.5%	42.1%
ELTs	23,630	85.9%	11.9%
<b>All 406 MHz Beacon Types</b>	<b>199,388</b>	<b>95.5%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

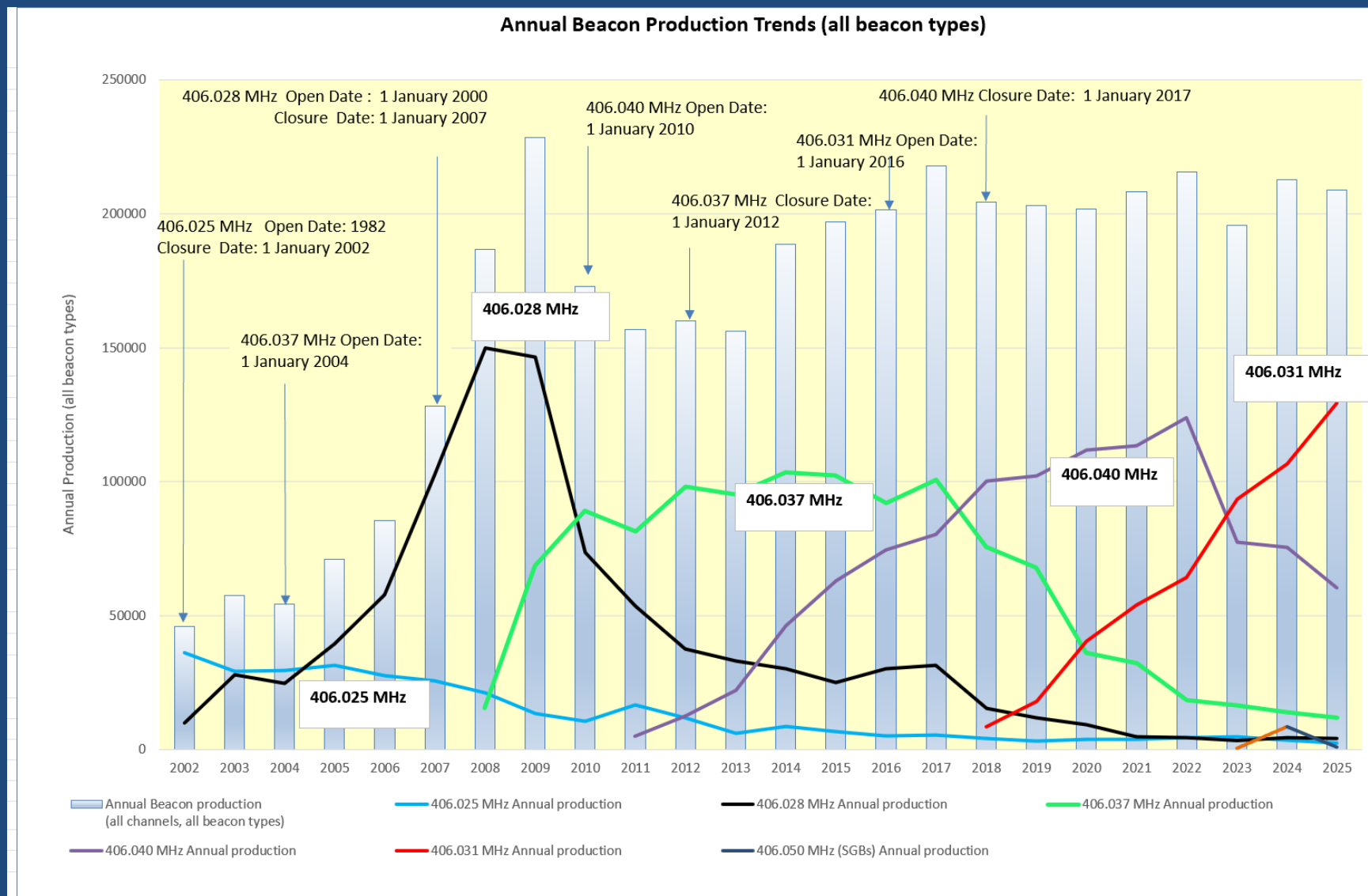
An estimated global population of about **1,700,000** LP beacons were in use at the end of 2025, which corresponds to 82 % of all beacons deployed Worldwide

# 2026 Survey Results

## Beacon Production Trends (by beacon type)



# Beacons Production Trends (By Frequency Channel)



# Estimated Global Beacon Population

- The estimated about **2,082,000** beacons were in use at the end of **2025** (using the assumed-replacement-period estimation method)
- This estimate is based on a 10-year in-service life assumption for all beacon types
- Annual change of the estimated Global beacon population: **+0.6%**

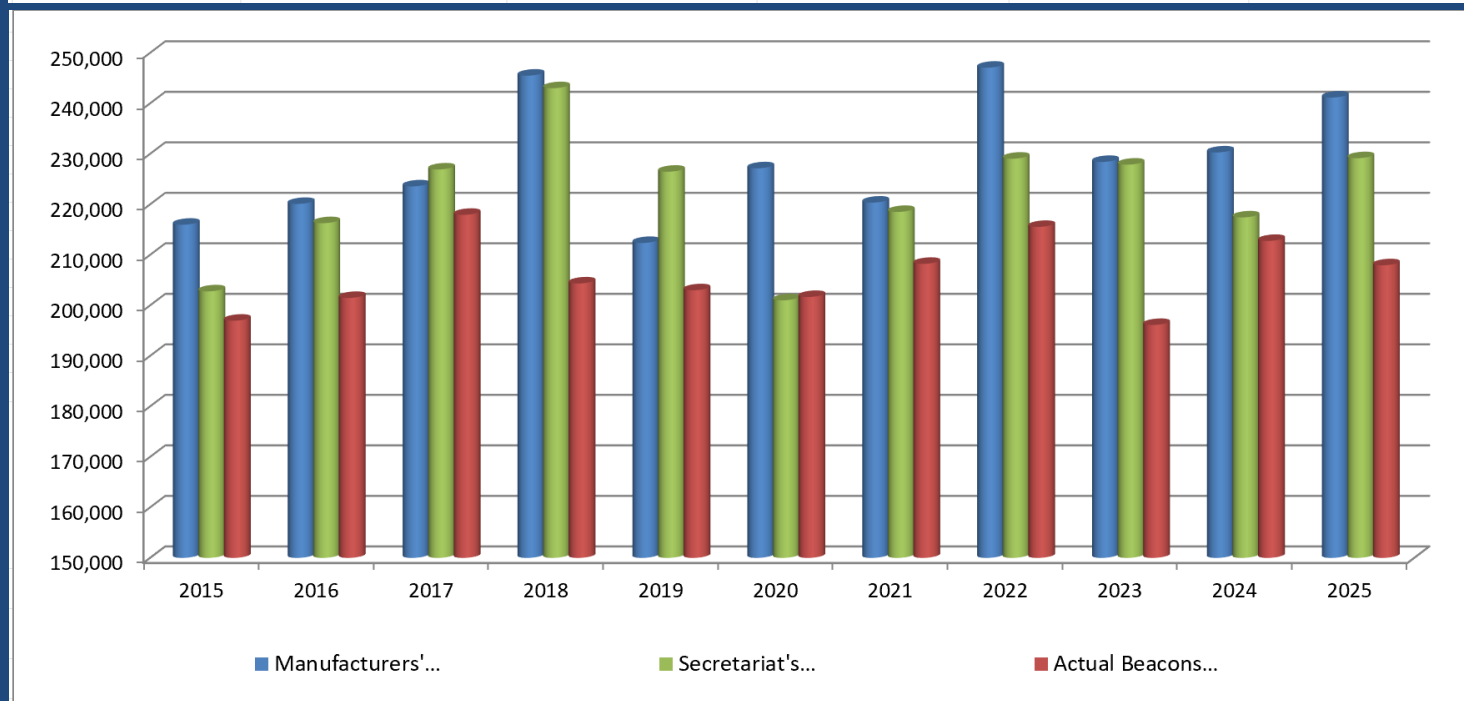
# Beacon Manufacturers' Plans for 2026



- In 2026, beacon manufacturers plan to produce over **222,000** new beacons (+7% over the actual 2025 production volume), including:
  - 108,000 new EPIRBs,
  - 29,000 new ELTs,
  - 85,000 new PLBs.
- Beacon manufacturers plan to produce in 2026:
  - over 74,000 FGB RLS-enabled beacons,
  - about 2,000 FGB ELT(DT)s,
  - over 1,000 SGBs of which few hundred beacons are SGB ELT(DT)s.
- The estimated global population of 406 MHz beacons at the end of 2026 could reach **2,104,000 units** (using the assumed 10-year in-service-life period)

# Comparison of Beacon Manufacturers' Plans and the Secretariat's Forecast vs Actual Production

Year	Manufacturers' Plans for 2025	Secretariat's Forecast for 2025	Actual Production in 2025	Discrepancy of Manufacturers' Plans vs Actual production, %	Discrepancy of the Secretariat's Forecast vs Actual production, %
2025	241,151	229,145	207,940	8.23%	2.19%



# RTCM Chairman of the Board Estimates



CHAIRMAN'S FORECAST ACCURACY					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
CHRIS H.	240,500	194,900	203,700	215,000	210,650
Actual	208,224	215,538	196,125	212,650	208,802
Accuracy	13.4%	-10.6%	3.7%	1.1%	0.9%
PINTS DUE	1	2	1	0	-1

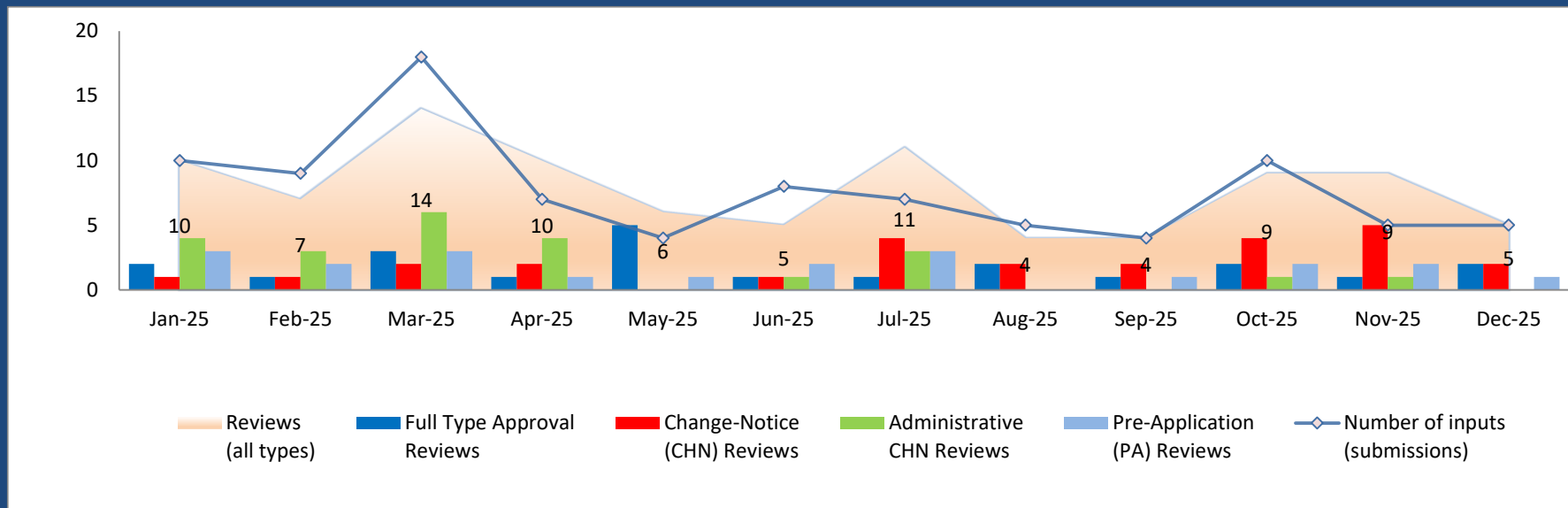


# Type Approval Activity

# 2025 Type Approval Statistics

In 2025, the Secretariat has conducted 92 reviews of type-approval submissions, including:

- 22 submission for full type approvals,
- 26 change notices (“technical”) submissions;
- 23 submissions for administrative change notices,
- 21 reviews of re-application submissions .



# 2025 Type Approval Statistics

Types of Type-Approval Applications	Type-Approval Activity in 2024		Type-Approval Activity in 2025	
	New Applications	Number of Conducted Reviews	New Applications	Number of Conducted Reviews
Full type-approval	6	32	6	22
Change notice (CHNs)	12	42	12	26
Administrative CHNs	12	16	12	23
Pre-application	11	27	11	21
<b>All types of applications</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>92</b>

For reviews of type-approval submissions, the median response time in 2025 ranged from 10 days (23 days in 2024) for administrative cases to 28 days (29 days in 2024) for “technical” type-approval or change-notice cases. Whereas the median response time for all types of applications was 21 calendar days (26.5 days in 2024), which was within the 30-calendar-day guideline set by the Council.

As for the year 2026, the surveyed beacon manufacturers indicated their plan to submit applications for type approval of 19 new beacon models, of which 7 models are SGBs, 8 technical change-notice applications and 10 applications requesting additional TAC numbers.

For more information...

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In total, from **September 1982 to December 2025**, the Cospas-Sarsat System provided assistance in rescuing at least **69,721 persons** in **22,234 SAR events**.

## Cospas-Sarsat – Together, We Save Lives !

