



# U.S. Coast Guard Topics of Interest

2026 SARSAT Beacon Manufacturers Workshop

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# Topics

- Developments at MSC
- Developments at NCSR
- RTCM Special Committees
- FCC – 47 CFR Update
- FCC Waiver Requests



# Developments at MSC

- Items to be discussed at MSC 111 in May 2026
  - Draft Maritime Autonomous Surface Ship (MASS) Code
    - Initial implementation as Voluntary Code
  - Review of the financial architecture of the LRIT system
    - Financial changes may drive changes to technical requirements
  - NCSR 12 Report and Recommendations
    - WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.5 regarding non-geostationary-satellite orbit satellite systems in the fixed-satellite and mobile-satellite services
    - WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.16 regarding non-geostationary-satellite orbit systems and Radio Astronomy Service (RAS) bands and designated Radio Quiet Zones (RQZs) to reduce interference
    - Potential impacts to GMDSS satellite service providers



# Developments at NCSR

- Items being discussed at NCSR 13 in June 2026
  - IMO final positions on ITU WRC-27 agenda items concerning matters relating to Maritime Services
  - Guidelines for EPIRB implementation of a two-way communication service (TWC) – one paper submitted by the EC
  - Maritime Survivor Locating Device (MSLD) role in GMDSS – USA paper discussing guidance on MSLDs and voluntary carriage
  - Voyage Data Recorders (VDR) – USA paper highlighting NTSB findings/recommendations for *EL FARO* & *DALI* maritime incidents



# RTCM Special Committees

- SC110 Emergency Beacons – preparing for SGB FOC and finalizing TWC technical requirements
- SC118 on Voyage Data Recorder (VDR) - re-activated to address NTSB concerns raised from *EL FARO* and *DALI* incidents
- SC119 on Maritime Survivor Locating Devices (MSLD) – developing change to align with ITU/IEC changes
- SC121 on Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) and Digital Messaging – published new standard for mobile ATON (DEC 2025)
- SC128 on Satellite Emergency Notification and Location Devices (SENDs) – continuing work on revising the standard to address enhanced satellite communications capabilities & services
- SC132 on Electronic Visual Distress Signaling Devices (eVDSDs) – working on a minor change
- SC136 on Beacon Type Approvals – SGB and TWC test/type approval



# FCC – 47 CFR Update

- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on integrity, security, and reciprocity in electronic device testing
  - Will require use of U.S. test facilities or non-U.S. test facilities with reciprocal agreements with U.S. test facilities
- Updated "Covered List" of communications equipment and services deemed an unacceptable national security risk (47 CFR § 1.50000)
- 47 CFR Part 80 update
  - Developing NPRM to implement IMO, SOLAS, ITU & IEC changes
- 47 CFR Part 95 update
  - Developing NPRM to implement ITU & IEC changes



# FCC Waiver Requests

- Guidance for waiver requests
  - Submit a waiver to comply with a newer standard
  - Contact the FCC for a waiver consultation
- Guidance for AIS-SART capability
  - Dedicated AIS-SART function requires USCG review for IMO & ITU AIS standards compliance/compatibility
  - USCG working with the FCC to define a process for devices with AIS-SART functionality
  - Government shutdown has delayed defining this process



# Questions ?

Thank you for your attention.