



Ref. T2/6.01

MSC/Circ.882  
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### **GUIDELINES ON ANNUAL TESTING OF 406 MHz SATELLITE EPIRBs**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventieth session (7 to 11 December 1998) approved the following guidelines on annual testing of 406 MHz satellite EPIRBs on board ships, as required by new SOLAS regulation IV/15.9.

2 The testing should be carried out using suitable test equipment capable of performing all the relevant measurements required in these guidelines.

3 The examination of the installed 406 MHz satellite EPIRB should include:

- .1 checking position and mounting for float-free operation;
- .2 carrying out visual inspection for defects;
- .3 carrying out the self-test routine;
- .4 checking that the EPIRB identification (ID) is clearly marked on the outside of the equipment and decoding the EPIRB identity number and other information from the transmitted signal;
- .5 checking the battery expiry date;
- .6 if provided, checking the hydrostatic release and its expiry date;
- .7 checking the frequency of the 406 MHz signal without transmission of a distress call to the satellites;
- .8 if possible, checking frequency of the 121.5 MHz homing signal without activating the satellite system;
- .9 checking that the EPIRB has been maintained by an approved testing or servicing station;  
and
- .10 after the test, remounting the EPIRB in its bracket, checking that no transmission has been started.

4 Member Governments are invited to bring these guidelines to the attention of shipping companies, shipowners, ship operators, equipment manufacturers, classification societies, shipmasters and all other parties concerned.