



Beacon Registration Issues

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Beacon Registration Issues

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Beacon Registration Issues



Overview

- Background on Two Incidents
- Data Entry Procedures Reviewed
- Corrective Actions
- Support Requested from Manufacturers



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Background

- A distress incident involving a duplicate ID apparently caused by a reprogrammed beacon
- A recent distress incident revealed that a beacon had been registered with an incorrect beacon ID apparently due to a misinterpretation of a character on a hand written form.



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Review of Data Entry Procedures

- Review of data entry procedures revealed:
 - More confirmation checks were needed when a beacon owner marks the registration as new but finds the beacon ID has already been registered
 - Most apparent duplicate IDs are due:
 - To legitimate change of ownership or
 - To data entry error by one of the owner
 - Interpreting hand writing is an issue



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Corrective Actions (1 of 2)

- Made to date:
 - Changed letters to owners to emphasize validating that the beacon ID was entered correctly
 - In addition to entering the beacon ID twice, a second person is checking the beacon ID was entered correctly
 - Changed procedures for handling registrations where it appears the beacon owner has changed
 - When apparent duplicate beacon ID is detected, attempt to contact both owners.
 - Using beacon manufacturer serial numbers when appropriate to validate the beacon ID
 - Registration updates – look at entire form not just area where the owner indicates a change



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Corrective actions (2 of 2)

➤ Future:

- Will be sending emails and letters (with registration attached) to all registered owners requesting that they validate the beacon ID vs UIN on the beacon
- Add Manufacturer serial number to information collected from owner
- Compare owner entered serial number with manufacturer serial number derived from beacon ID. (we have a formula from one manufacturer for certain protocols)
- Increase use of Cospas-Sarsat Type Approval number for validating beacon ID



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Support from Beacon Manufacturers

- The following ideas involve beacon manufacturers and are presented here for consideration. They are meant to reduce unique identification number transcription errors or promote beacon registration.
- Portray the UIN as a series of three strings (xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx)
- Develop a checksum for the UIN
- Develop barcode labels for registration forms included with emergency beacon packaging
- Track UINs assigned by manufacturers
- Develop sale notification cards
- Physically attach registration information to the beacon



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➤ Mr Chris O'Connors, SARSAT Program Manager, sent an email to each manufacture forewarning them of possible increased calls by owners due to the letters being sent to owners requesting that they check their beacon's ID.



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END