



406 MHz Beacon Registration Database (RGDB)

SAR Controllers Workshop 2022

April 26 – 28, 2022

Apurve Mathur

ERT, Inc.

RGDB Lead





Overview

- Registration Database (RGDB) updates
 - Registration search
 - Second-generation beacons (23-hex)
- Guidance for owners with old/inaccurate registrations or unregistered beacons
- RGDB efforts to combat inaccurate registrations
 - IHDB feedback program
 - Change of owner (sold beacon) confirmation process
 - RGDB staff data entry safeguards
- RGDB SAR user account access and password assistance



RGDB Changes – Search Tool Improvement

- Searches now behave like standard “Google” searches
 - Adding more criteria reduces the number of hits to help home in on the desired record
 - Results are based on beacons - if the search term matches owner name, *all* registrations for that owner will be returned (previously only 1 random registration for that owner was shown)
- You can search for a record with only 4 characters of the hex ID (spaces and hyphens are automatically removed)



RGDB Changes – 23-Hex Beacons

- The RGDB is being updated to support registration of 23-hex second generation beacons
- PLB registrations will now include fields for radio call sign, vessel MMSI number, AIS MMSI number, and aircraft tail number
- EPIRB registrations will also include an AIS MMSI number field

How RCCs Can Help Owners with Registrations



- Collect contact information for new beacon owners and record it in the IHDB record
 - Name, phone number, email address, mailing address
 - RGDB staff will attempt to contact new owner to aid with registration
- Provide RGDB website url (preferably in writing):
beaconregistration.noaa.gov
- Inform/remind owners that registration is required and can make a difference in a distress situation ([current registration brochure](#))
- **If the information is not recorded in the IHDB, it cannot be used to improve the accuracy of the database**





IHDB Feedback Program

- IHDB records are reviewed on a regular basis for any registration information provided by RCCs
- When information for a new owner is provided, the RGDB attempts contact by mail, email, or phone
- The previous owner is also contacted in most cases to provide confirmation and any additional information
- The RGDB is updated accordingly by staff (and hopefully the new owner in the form of a new registration)





RGDB Change of Owner (COO) Program

- Purchasers of used beacons can submit new registrations at any time in the RGDB
- If the previous registration is not already marked as “Sold,” the new registration is assigned a “Pending” status
- RGDB staff attempt to confirm the transfer within a few business days to ensure there are no beacon hex-ID errors
- If no contact is made with the previous owner within a reasonable time (2-4 days), the registration is released
- The COO program has successfully discovered and resolved hundreds of beacon hex-ID errors entered by owners




Data Entry by RGDB Staff – Timeliness

- **As a contract requirement, all “New” registrations MUST be entered within 2 business days after receipt, unless there are issues with readability or the beacon’s hex ID** 
- **Most registration updates are entered within the same timeframe** 
- The RGDB Lead and Quality Specialist monitor and report performance



Data Entry by RGDB Staff – Accuracy

- All data entry by RGDB staff (excluding phone updates) is checked for accuracy by comparing owners' submissions to the actual RGDB record
- Needed corrections are sent back to the original staff member
- **All corrections and changes are reflected in the RGDB immediately and *replace the old information* – changes are transparent to owners and SAR personnel** 
- The RGDB Lead monitors performance with input from the Quality Specialist



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