

Commonwealth of Dominica**Office of the Maritime Administrator**

TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNITS (MODU'S) AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

SUBJECT: Identification Numbers for 406 MHz Satellite EPIRBs

PURPOSE: This Circular establishes a unique identification code for satellite emergency position-indicating radio beacons to enable Rescue Coordination Centers (RCCs) responsible for Search and Rescue (SAR) operations to identify vessels in distress.

APPLICABILITY: This Circular applies to all vessels in the Dominica International registry, including MODU's, that are outfitted with EPIRBs.

REQUIREMENTS:

1.0 Following the guidance by COSPAS-SARSAT Council that:

"A unique beacon identification code, including the 3-digit Maritime Identification Digits (MID), followed by either:

- (a) the trailing 6 digits of the ship station identity, or
- (b) a unique serial number, or
- (c) a radio call sign

should be part of all messages";

if a serial number is used, there will be a need for international access to continuously update national databases to obtain relevant information. The same may apply to the use of trailing 6 digits of the station identity.

2.0 Taking this into consideration, the Administration has elected to use alternative (c)

incorporating the vessel's unique radio call sign. The Maritime Identification Digit Code assigned to the Commonwealth of Dominica by the International Telecommunication Union, Geneva, would precede this. The use of the vessel's radio call sign makes identification readily available from ITU publications currently in use. It will be necessary to ensure that the supplier of satellite EPIRBs that are to be installed on board Dominica registered vessels uses this coding. The Dominica MID Code is 325.

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