

§ 95.2903

47 CFR Ch. I (10–1–20 Edition)

§ 95.2903 Definitions, PLBs and MSLDs.

Identification code. An identification code issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to establish a unique identification for each PLB.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The U.S. Government Agency that is the United States Program Manager for the 406 MHz COSPAS/SARSAT satellite system.

Maritime Survivor Locating Device (MSLD). A device intended to aid in the location of persons in the water.

Personal Locator Beacon (PLB). A small portable transmitter, compliant with all of the rules in this subpart, that is intended to provide individuals in remote areas a means to alert others of an emergency situation and to aid search and rescue personnel to locate those in distress.

§ 95.2905 PLB registration.

Each PLB owner must initially register their PLB with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and must advise NOAA of any subsequent change of ownership or other change in the registration information. Each PLB is registered by its identification code (*see* § 95.2987(b)).

(a) PLB owners are encouraged to register their PLBs through the internet using the following Web site: <http://www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov>

(b) PLB owners may also register their PLBs by mailing a completed registration card to the following address: NOAA SARSAT Beacon Registration, NSOF, E/SPO53, 1315 East West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910-9684.

§§ 95.2907–95.2929 [Reserved]

§ 95.2931 Permissible use of PLBs and MSLDs.

(a) PLBs may be used only for transmission of distress and safety of life communications.

(b) MSLDs may be used only to aid in the location of persons in the water.

§ 95.2933 Prohibited use of PLBs and MSLDs.

(a) PLBs must not be used for any purpose other than transmission of dis-

tress and safety of life communications.

(b) Use of MSLDs on land is not authorized.

§§ 95.2935–95.2959 [Reserved]

§ 95.2961 PLB and MSLD transmitter certification.

(a) Each PLB and MSLD transmitter must be certified in accordance with this subpart and part 2 of this chapter.

(b) A grant of equipment certification will not be issued for any PLB or MSLD transmitter type that fails to comply with all of the applicable rules in this subpart.

§ 95.2963 PLB and MSLD frequency bands.

(a) The frequency band 406.0–406.1 MHz is an emergency and distress frequency band available for use by Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs). Use of these frequencies must be limited to transmission of distress and safety of life communications.

(b) MSLDs must:

(1) Transmit on at least one of the following frequencies: 121.5 MHz, 156.525 MHz, 156.750 MHz, 156.800 MHz, 156.850 MHz, 161.975 MHz, or 162.025 MHz; or

(2) Include a function intended to send a distress message directly to the U.S. Coast Guard or any other search and rescue organization.

§§ 95.2965–95.2969 [Reserved]

§ 95.2971 PLB emission type.

PLB transmitter types must be designed to use emission type G1D on the frequency band 406.0–406.1 MHz.

§§ 95.2973–95.2985 [Reserved]

§ 95.2987 Additional PLB and MSLD certification requirements.

(a) To be certified for use under this subpart, 406 MHz PLB transmitter types must be designed to satisfy the following additional requirements.

(1) *Certifications.* Beginning January 17, 2018, before submitting an application for FCC certification of a 406 MHz PLB transmitter type, the applicant must obtain:

(i) Certification from a test facility recognized by one of the COSPAS/

SARSAT Partners that the PLB transmitter type satisfies the standards in RTCM 11010; and,

(ii) Certification from an independent test facility that the PLB transmitter type complies with the electrical and environmental standards associated with RTCM 11010.

(2) *Identification code.* An identification code, recognized by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the United States Program Manager for the 406 MHz COSPAS/SARSAT satellite system, must be programmed into each PLB to establish a unique identification for that PLB.

(b) To be certified for use under this subpart, MSLD transmitter types must be designed to satisfy the following additional requirements.

(1) A test report from a test laboratory which shows that the MSLD complies with the electrical and environmental standards associated with RTCM 11901. The test laboratory must be accredited to ISO-IEC 17025 with a scope covering the applicable requirements and test procedures.

(2) After the MSLD has been certified by a test laboratory, the following information must be submitted in duplicate to the U.S. Coast Guard, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE., Stop 7126, Washington, DC 20593-7126:

(i) The name of the manufacturer or grantee and model number of the MSLD;

(ii) Copies of the test report and test data showing that the MSLD complies with the electrical and environmental standards associated with RTCM 11901; and

(iii) Instruction manuals associated with the MSLD, description of the test characteristics of the MSLD including assembly drawings, electrical schematics, description of parts list, specifications of materials and the manufacturer's quality assurance program.

(3) After reviewing the information described in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, the U.S. Coast Guard will issue a letter stating whether the MSLD satisfies all RTCM Recommended Standards. In the case of an MSLD that includes a function intended to send a distress message directly to the U.S. Coast Guard or any other search and

rescue organization, the letter will also state whether the U.S. Coast Guard endorses that function.

(4) A certification application for an MSLD must contain a copy of the U.S. Coast Guard letter stating that the device satisfies all RTCM Recommended Standards, a copy of the technical test data, and the instruction manual(s).

§ 95.2989 PLB and MSLD technical standards.

(a) PLB transmitter types must be designed to comply with technical standard RTCM 1010.2. MSLD transmitter types must be designed to comply with technical standard RTCM 11901.1.

(b) The standards required in this section are incorporated by reference into this section with the approval of the Director of the Federal Register under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. All approved material is available for inspection at FCC headquarters at 445 12th Street SW., Washington, DC 20554, and is available from the sources indicated in this paragraph (b). It is also available for inspection at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA call 202-741-6030 or go to http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html.

(1) The following standards are available from the Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services, 1611 N. Kent St., Suite 605, Arlington, Virginia 22209-2128.

(i) RTCM 11010.2, "406 MHz Satellite Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs)," including Amendments 1 and 2, dated June 8, 2012 (RTCM 11010).

(ii) RTCM 11901.1, "Maritime Survivor Locating Devices (MSLD)," dated June 4, 2012.

(2) [Reserved].

§ 95.2991 PLB and MSLD marketing limitations.

(a) No device may be marketed or sold in the United States as a "PLB" or "Personal Locator Beacon" unless it is compliant with all of the rules in this subpart. Previously approved