



# Government Gazette

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**AIDS HELPLINE: 0800-0123-22 Prevention is the cure**

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**GOVERNMENT NOTICE**

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**INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF SOUTH AFRICA****No. 1265****28 June 2004****NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MAKE REGULATIONS IN RESPECT OF PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS**

1. ICASA ("the Authority") hereby gives notice of its intention to make regulations in terms of sections 96(1) read with section 55 of the Telecommunications Act, 1996 (Act No. 103 of 1996) as amended.
2. Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on the proposed regulations by no later than 30 July 2004.
3. Persons submitting written representations are further invited to indicate whether they are requesting an opportunity to make oral representations and the estimated duration thereof, which duration shall not exceed one hour.
4. Written representations will be made publicly available except where respondents indicate that their responses or part thereof are confidential. Respondents are requested to separate any confidential material into a clearly marked confidential annex. Unconditional permission to use such confidential material will be assumed unless the author expressly states otherwise. Any copyright attached to responses will be assumed to have been relinquished unless it is expressly reserved.

5. It would be helpful if hard copies of all written representations are submitted and an electronic version thereof, either on disk or e-mail.

6. Written representations may be posted or hand delivered for the attention of

**The Senior Manager: Spectrum Management**

<b>ICASA Block A</b>	<b>ICASA</b>
<b>Pinmill Farm</b>	<b>Private Bag X10002</b>
<b>164 Katherine Street</b>	<b>Sandton</b>
<b>Sandton</b>	<b>2146</b>
<b>Gauteng Province</b>	

All comments and queries regarding this document and PLBs should be addressed to Mr Peter Zimri

Tel : +27(0)11-321 8316  
Fax : +27(0)11-321 8538  
Email : [pzimri@icasa.org.za](mailto:pzimri@icasa.org.za)

**MANDLA LANGA  
CHAIRPERSON  
ICASA**

## **PROPOSED REGULATION**

### **1. DEFINITIONS**

In these regulations, a word or expression shall have the meaning assigned to it in terms of the Telecommunications Act, (Act No. 103 of 1996), as amended, and unless the context indicates otherwise.

“PLB” means a Personal Locator Beacon operating within the COSPAS-SARSAT satellite service; and

“COSPAS-SARSAT satellite service” means a search and rescue system of polar-orbiting satellites designed to locate distress beacons transmitting in the 406 MHz band and on other frequencies.

### **2. APPLICATION**

These regulations shall be applicable for individuals in remote areas as a means to alert others of an emergency situation and to aid search and rescue personnel to locate those in distress. These regulations further make provision for the registration and licensing of PLB's.

### **3. FREQUENCY**

- (1) The frequencies 406-406.100 MHz have been exclusively reserved for distress beacons operating with the COSPAS-SARSAT satellite service.
- (2) The use of these frequencies shall be restricted to transmissions of distress and safety communications.
- (3) PLB's operating on these frequencies shall use phase modulation.

### **4. EQUIPMENT AUTHORIZATION**

All PLBs shall satisfy all the technical and testing requirements as detailed in the COSPAS-SARSAT documents C/S T.001 (406 MHz beacon specification) and T.007 (406 MHz beacon type-approval standard).

## 5. DATA PROGRAMMING PROTOCOL

(1) PLB's may be of location or non-location types

- (a) The Cospas-Sarsat Serial User protocol shall be used for PLB programming and shall include the beacon's unique serial number as issued by the manufacturer.

## 6. FEES

(1) The application fee shall be R 210.00 which will be non-refundable.

(2) The license fee shall be RXX.00c (*amount to be determined should the licensing be adopted*) per annum.

(3) The fee in respect of a change of ownership request for a PLB shall be R100.00 (one hundred rand), per application.

(4) The fee in respect of a request to amend PLB registration particulars shall be R100.00 (one hundred rand), per request.

(5) Registration fee shall be a once off fee of R100.00c (One hundred Rand)

All fees shall be payable by way of a bank guaranteed cheque, crossed and marked "Not Transferable," and made out to the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa.

## 7. LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

The following two options are proposed:

(a) Option 1 - Licensed

(b) Option 2 - Unlicensed

A registration fee contemplated in subsection 6(4) is the only fee applicable.

## **8. REGISTRATION PROCESS**

Registration of PLB's is mandatory and it shall be the responsibility of the supplier/distributor to ensure that the PLB is registered with the Authority using the Registration Form attached hereto as Annexure A. The Authority shall forward the necessary registration to the custodian of the master Search and Rescue ("SAR") database.

## **9. ABUSE OF PLB'S**

Misuse of PLB's shall constitute an abuse of South African Search and Rescue facilities and shall be a contravention in terms of the Telecommunications Act (Act No.103 of 1996). Any person found guilty of such an offence shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding R5 000.00 (five thousand rand) or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or to both such fine and imprisonment at the court's discretion.

**Annexure A**

**PLB (PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON)**

**406 MHz COSPAS-SARSAT SOUTH AFRICAN DISTRESS BEACON**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. BEACON DATA: (please check)**

- New Beacon Registration;
- Change Beacon Registration;
- Change of Ownership;
- Change Other Information;

Manufacturer:.....Model No:.....

Distributor/Retailer:.....

**BEACON IDENTIFICATION CODE 15 CHARACTER HEXADECIMAL  
MUST BE PROVIDED BELOW**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

**2. OWNERS INFORMATION:**

Name:.....

Address:.....

Telephone:.....Fax:.....

Mobile Phone.....

E-mail:.....

**3. EMERGENCY CONTACTS:**

**Primary**

Name:.....

Telephone: (work).....

Telephone: (home).....

Cellphone: .....

Fax: .....

**Alternative**

Name:.....

Telephone: (work).....

Telephone: (home).....

Cellphone: .....

Fax:.....

**3. USAGE INFORMATION**

Usage: (please select)

Land Vehicle       Hiking       Hunting       Fishing  
 Boating       Aircraft       Other \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Data: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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