

## Personal Locator Beacon (PLB)

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The PLB is a manually activated emergency alerting device operating in the dedicated 406.0 – 406.1 MHz distress band that is monitored by the International Cospas-Sarsat Programme. Orbiting satellites detect and relay the signals to ground operating stations, *which can locate the source and relay the coordinates and associated registration* information to the appropriate Rescue Coordination Center worldwide. The PLB can be used anywhere in the world, on land or at sea.

The PLB is a one way device. You cannot communicate with it.

Newer PLBs also provide an Automatic Identification System Search and Rescue Transmitter (AIS-SART) locating signal as well as GNSS position data. Similar to EPIRBs, PLB distress alerts *are routed directly to a Rescue Coordination Center based on the beacon location.*

Similar to the EPIRB, you have to register the unit. It is required by law. The registration information includes owner contact information, emergency contact information. The on-line registration is here: <http://www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov/>

Second generation beacons (SGBs) are not yet authorized for use in the US. If you are registering a 23-hex SGB, your registration will not be active and your beacon's activation distress signals will not be processed in the SARSAT system until this beacon type has been officially authorized.

Compared to an EPIRB, the PLB has a smaller battery, so it will not last as long. The PLB is manually activated instead of by water.