



ASSEMBLY - 17th session  
Agenda item 10

IMO

RESOLUTION A.696(17)  
adopted on 6 November 1991

TYPE APPROVAL OF SATELLITE EMERGENCY POSITION-INDICATING RADIO  
BEACONS (EPIRBs) OPERATING IN THE COSPAS-SARSAT SYSTEM

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 15(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations and guidelines concerning maritime safety,

NOTING that the Conference of Contracting Governments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS), on the global maritime distress and safety system (GMDSS Conference, 1988) adopted regulation IV/7.1.6 of the 1988 SOLAS amendments, applicable not later than 1 August 1993, requiring the carriage of a float-free satellite EPIRB on every ship as part of the global maritime distress and safety system,

NOTING Assembly resolution A.695(17) - Performance Standards for Float-Free Satellite Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) Operating on 406 MHz,

NOTING FURTHER resolution 3 - Recommendation on the early introduction of GMDSS elements, adopted by the 1988 GMDSS Conference, which recommends, inter alia, that satellite EPIRBs be introduced as early as possible,

RECOGNIZING that satellite EPIRBs forming part of the global maritime distress and safety system and operating through the COSPAS-SARSAT satellite system in the frequency band 406 MHz-406.1 MHz (406 MHz EPIRBs) should be type approved to ensure the integrity of the COSPAS-SARSAT satellite system, to avoid harmful interference to the spaceborne equipment, to exclude unauthorized transmissions and to provide reliable data to rescue co-ordination centres,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER the value of the type approval procedure proposed by the COSPAS-SARSAT partners in order to ensure that satellite EPIRBs will not degrade system performance and will be compatible with the spaceborne equipment,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its fifty-eighth session,

W/3995x/EWP

**RECOMMENDS Governments:**

- (a) to ensure, as part of national type approval procedures, that any new type of 406 MHz satellite EPIRB to be deployed on board ships is tested to confirm that it is in accordance with the IMO performance standards for 406 MHz EPIRBs (resolution A.695(17)); confirmation that the satellite EPIRB meets part B of that performance standard can be achieved by either:
  - (i) performing, or having performed, under national procedures, all appropriate tests; or
  - (ii) accepting type approval test results obtained through the COSPAS-SARSAT type approval procedure (C/S T.007) and confirmed by the delivery of a COSPAS-SARSAT Type Approval Certificate; and
- (b) to encourage national type approval authorities to develop test procedures compatible, to the extent possible, with C/S T.007, if necessary in consultation with the COSPAS-SARSAT Secretariat.