

Emergency Distress Signalling Requirements

Safety Bulletin

NEW TRANSPORT CANADA REQUIREMENTS:

All fishing vessels to carry lifesaving distress-signalling equipment.

Effective October 28th, 2020, Transport Canada Navigation Safety Regulations came into force where **commercial vessels of all sizes, including fishing vessels, are required to carry life-saving equipment** on vessels that will send emergency signals and provide the vessel's location.

This bulletin highlights the specific distress alerting equipment required by the *Navigation Safety Regulations Section 209(1)(a-b)* and *Section 209(3)(a-d)* based on the size of your vessel and area of operation.

DISTANCE TRAVELLED	VESSEL LENGTH		
	Less than 8 m (26')	8 m to 12 m (26 – 39')	More than 12 m (39')
Near Coastal Voyage, Class I and beyond <i>(any voyage 25 nautical miles or more from shore)</i>	Float-free EPIRB	Float-free EPIRB (replaces the former manual EPIRB requirement)	Float-free EPIRB (already required)
Near Coastal Voyage, Class 2 <i>(a voyage within 25 nautical miles of shore)</i>	Float-free EPIRB, or manually-activated EPIRB, or PLB, or a waterproof portable VHF handheld radio capable of DSC	Float-free EPIRB, or manually-activated EPIRB, or PLB	Float-free EPIRB (already required for vessels greater than 20 m)

For more information on the Navigation Safety Regulations, contact your nearest Transport Canada Office.

EMERGENCY DISTRESS SIGNALLING REGISTRATION



FISH HARVESTERS—Have you registered your Emergency Distress Signalling devices? Registering your devices and keeping your information up to date increases your chances of survival in an emergency!



VHF-DSC Radio

Very High Frequency-Digital Selective Calling (VHF-DSC) radios are assigned a unique 9-digit number called a Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) that allows for private calling and distress calling. The MMSI number is received once registered with the Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) department. A VHF-DSC radio must be operated by someone with a valid Radio Operator's Certificate (ROC).



EPIRB

Your Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) must be registered with the Canadian Beacon Registry. Emergency contact information, vessel information, owner/operator information, and EPIRB specifications all attribute to efficient emergency response.



PLB

Your Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) must be registered with the Canadian Beacon Registry. Emergency contact information, owner/operator information, and PLB specifications all attribute to efficient emergency response.

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