

# Customer information BULLETIN

## EPIRB – Pre-Voyage Check list

Portsmouth  
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Ref: OM001-POR

### Applicable EPIRB types

<i>McMurdo (all variants)</i>	<i>Kannad Marine (all variants)</i>
SmartFind E5 EPIRB	SPORT
SmartFind G5 EPIRB	SPORT+
SmartFind A5 EPIRB	Safelink SPORTPRO
SmartFind A5G EPIRB	Safelink SPORTPRO+

### 1. What is the very first thing to do?

Check that your EPIRB user registration is up to date, if the EPIRB is new to you then make a registration as soon as possible.

To find out how to register your EPIRB, go to:  
<https://www.406registration.com/>

### How does my EPIRB work?

Most EPIRBs can be automatically or manually activated. Automatic versions will have a hydro-static release mechanism (HRU) that will release it from the bracket, so it can float to the surface and start transmitting. Do it now, familiarise yourself with your EPIRBs manual activation ON switch procedure and how to release it from its mounting bracket.

### 2. I want to make sure my EPIRB works, can I test it?

The EPIRB should only be live activated when you are in grave and imminent danger. But the EPIRB helpfully has in-built self-test features. Operating the self-test allows the entire unit, including electronics, battery and antenna, to be tested without generating a false alarm. Check your EPIRBs user guide for the exact instructions regarding how to start and read back the results of the self-test.

**Self-testing should be carried out on a regular basis and before setting out on an extended voyage.**

### Self Test Process

Push and hold the TEST button down until the red LED indicator lights.  
A successful self test will result in the red LED and strobe light flashing together a number of times. The number of strobe light flashes indicates past battery usage.  
Once the self test has completed the EPIRB will switch off automatically.

**A self-test failure will result in NO strobe light flash and the red LED turning OFF.**  
***Should an EPIRB fail the above test, then the EPIRB must not be used as the primary Search and Rescue beacon on board the vessel. In the event of a failure please contact your local Dealer or our Customer Service Department at the email address below.***

The EPIRB maybe self tested up to 12 times per year, or a total of 72 times during the 6 year battery lifetime.

### **3. What to look for when checking if the EPIRB is installed correctly?**

An automatic EPIRBs mounting position must have clear access around it to allow the lid to open cleanly and the EPIRB to float free clear of overhangs, vessel rigging, antennas etc. And not be mounted where damage is likely by direct impact from crashing waves or placed where it could be a crew tripping hazard or unintended grab hand. An automatic EPIRB has to sink to roughly three meters before it will be released from its bracket, so remember to take this into account when checking its mounting position is good. A vessel can also be a pretty hazardous environment for an EPIRB, avoid locating it close to engine exhaust fumes, powerful heat sources and chemical or oil storage areas. And easy access in an emergency is of course very important as well.

### **4. How can I easily identify any potential defects?**

Careful visual inspection on a regular basis is key. Metal parts should be bright and free of rust, plastic parts should have no visible cracking. Over time, plastic and paint finishes may start to show signs of fading but clear plastic parts should remain reasonably transparent. No water droplets should be visible inside when looking into the clear plastic dome. Check the battery and hydrostatic release expiry dates are valid. Verify that the lanyard cord is securely attached to the EPIRB body and not tied off to the vessel or the mounting bracket.

### **5. Become familiar with the operational Manual?**

An online operating manual can be obtained from <https://www.mcmurdogroup.com/mcmurdo-products/mcmurdo-smartfind-e5-epirb-manual-bracket/>

If any further information is required, please contact McMurdo using the contact information below.



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