

Distress Beacons

There are two types of beacons that can be used to send a distress signal in case of emergencies – PLBs and EPIRBs:

	PLB	EPIRB
Full Name	P ersonal L ocator B eacon	E mergency P osition I ndicating R adio B eacon
Usage	Land , maritime, air	Maritime , land, air
Description	Smaller and easier to transport than other beacons, designed to be worn or carried by individuals rather than vehicles.	Required in most states for boats that travel more than 2 nautical miles from the coast. EPIRBs may also be used on land.
Hours of Operation	24hrs	48hrs

**Hours of operation refers to the minimum amount of time that your beacon will continuously transmit a signal after it has been activated.*

Check you have a current PLB or EPIRB that is a digital 406 MHz distress beacon. Distress beacons transmitting on 121.5 MHz are no longer detected and have been discontinued.

There is a wealth of information on beacons.amsa.gov.au/about/beacon-types.asp. On this website, you'll be able to find links to the manufacturers' website for models which meet Australian standards; and a list of discontinued models.

You should protect all your communication devices by carrying them in a waterproof bag or dry sac.