

SARSAT Beacon Manufacturer's Workshop

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Beacon Testing Policy Update

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Purpose

- To establish the SARSAT Program policy on beacon testing and SAR exercises/ training with emergency beacons, survival radios, and direction finding/homing equipment which transmit and/or receive on the

406.0 – 406.1 MHz frequency band



Policy Applicability

- Applies to all **non-distress** US coded in the 406.0 – 406.1 MHz frequency band and applies to transmissions from:
 - Self-test beacons
 - Test-coded beacons
 - Operationally coded beacons used for beacon tests and SAR exercises/training
- Policy does not cover transmissions
 - In the 121.5/243 MHz channels
 - From Second Generation Beacons (SGBs)
 - To be developed

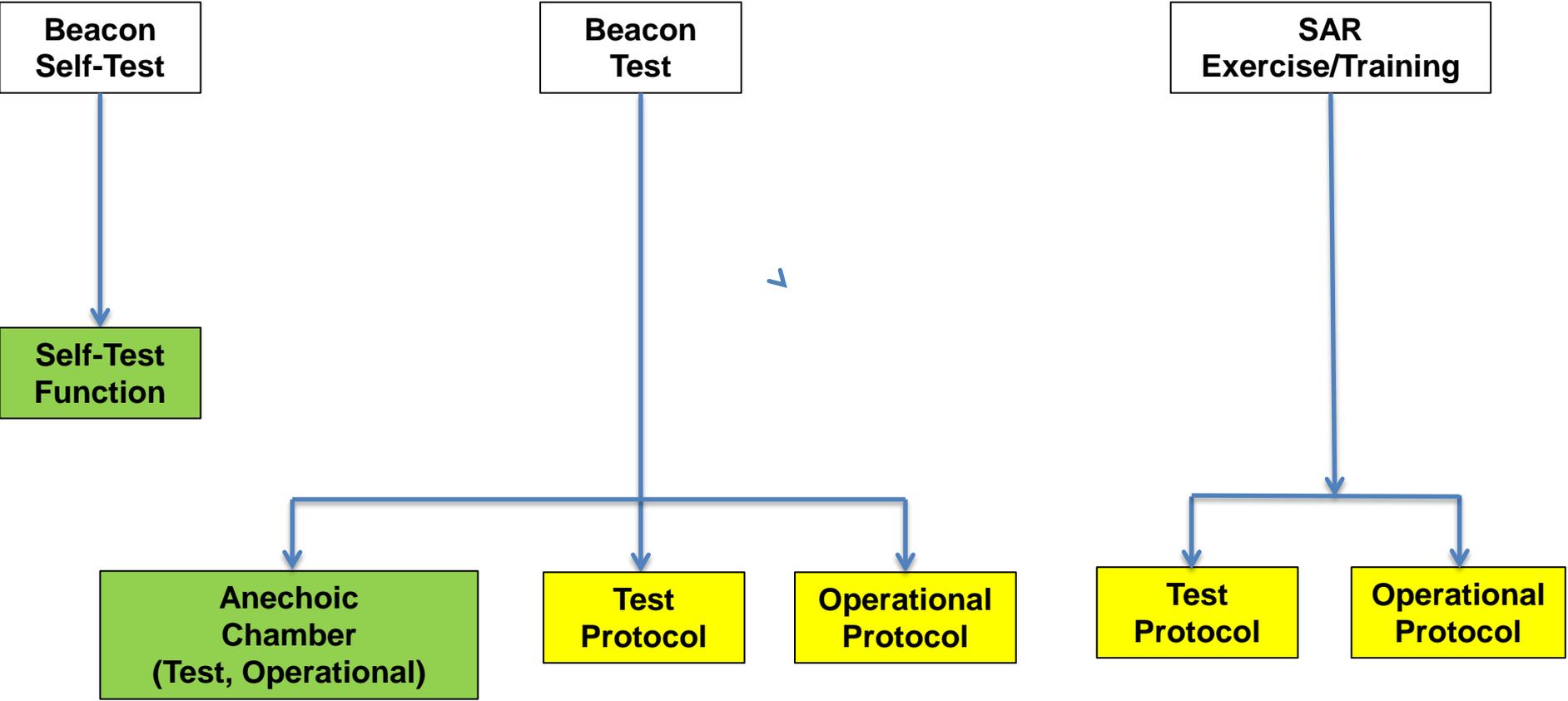


General Policy

- Defines situations under which policy applies
 - Beacon test (self-test mode)
 - Beacon test (operational mode)
 - SAR Exercise/Training
- Open air testing (except self-test mode) requires coordination
 - Operational coded transmission is treated as a distress alert and automatically forwarded to the RCCs
 - Could result in the launch of search and rescue assets
 - Test and operational coded transmissions affect capacity of satellites to process distress alerts



Summary



No Issue/No coordination required



Maybe allowed but requires coordination with NOAA SARSAT



Test Coordination Requirements

- USCG Program POC responsibility
 - Coordinating all USCG and USCG Auxiliary test, and SAR exercise/training requests, including RCC coordination
- USAF Program POC responsibility
 - Coordinating all USAF, Civil Air Patrol, other Service, DoD, and State, test, and SAR exercise/training requests, including RCC coordination if required
- NOAA Program POC responsibility
 - Coordinating all other tests, training, and exercise requests
- **NOAA is final approval authority for all tests in the U.S.**
 - Submit requests for 406 MHz Emergency beacon test form
 - 1- 3 beacons : 48 hours before first event
 - 4-6 beacons : 30 days before first event
 - 7 or more : **NOT ALLOWED**



Beacon Test Points of Contact

NOAA Beacon Test Policy at:

www.sarsat.noaa.gov

(under “What you can do”)

USAF Beacon Test POC:

email acc_a3jt.prtraining@us.af.mil

USCG Beacon Test POC:

email HQS-DG-M-406-TEST-Request@uscg.mil

NOAA Beacon Test POC:

email beacon.test@noaa.gov