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Australian Maritime Safety Authority

# ALERT MESSAGE FORMATS RCC & SPOC HANDBOOK

**UN - USA TRAINING COURSE ON SARSAT  
MIAMI, FLORIDA, 19 TO 23 JANUARY 2009**



# MID & BEACON IDENTIFICATION

## Maritime Identification Digit

- ▶ Handbook Ref. page 3-5 & 4-8

## Beacon Identification includes:

- ▶ Serial Number
- ▶ Aircraft Operator Designator
- ▶ Aircraft 24-Bit Address
- ▶ Radio Callsign
- ▶ MMSI
  - Handbook reference pages 3-5, 4-8, 6-23 & 6-24
    - 24-Bit Address example page 6-10 & 6-11
    - Use calculator to convert HEX to Binary

## Coding of multiple beacons on same vessel

- ▶ Can only be undertaken with Radio Callsign and MMSI coding
  - Handbook Ref. page 4-11



# ENCODED POSITION

## Source of Encoded Position

- ▶ Can be an external or internal GNSS device
  - What is the significance of this?
  - What if the GNSS device fails?
    - Handbook Ref. page 4-10

## Encoded Position Accuracy & Time of Update

- ▶ Dependant upon beacon protocol
  - Handbook Ref. pages 4-9, 4-10 & 4-12



# SOME UNUSUAL EVENTS

## Probability of Doppler Locations

- ▶ Can be 50%?
  - Handbook Ref. page 6-6 & 6-7

## Time of Alert Message Transmission

- ▶ Can be before beacon detection time
  - Handbook Ref. page 6-8

## 406 MHz Interferer Alert

- ▶ Action on persistent interferers
  - Handbook Ref. page 6-27



# REPORTING OF SAR EVENTS

## Distress Incidents Involving 406 MHz Beacons

- ▶ Need to provide feedback
- ▶ Submit distress incident report
  - Handbook Ref. page 5-1

## MCC address and contact numbers

- ▶ Countries supported by various MCCs
  - Handbook Ref. Annex B & C



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# RCC PERSONNEL COSPAS-SARSAT COURSE

## Recommended Course

- ▶ As per this UN-USA Training Course it covers
  - Cospas-Sarsat concept, space and ground segment
  - LUTs, MCCs, Alert Data Distribution & Message Formats
  - Beacons, Communications and Documentation Set
  - Contingency Procedures
    - Handbook Ref. Annex D



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**QUESTIONS?**