Preliminary Results of the 2016 Beacon Manufacturers Survey

Beacon Manufacturers Workshop
2016
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Technical Officer
2016 Survey Highlights

• Conducted by the Cospas-Sarsat Secretariat since 1991, annually

• **46** beacon manufacturers participated in the survey
  – Survey responses are missing from 6 manufacturers (which accounted for ~1% of 2014 beacon production)

• Geographical distribution of participating manufacturers:
  – Europe: 44%
  – USA and Canada: 30%
  – Asia and Australia: 26%
2016 Survey Highlights

- In 2014, about **196,968** beacons were produced worldwide, the annual production has increased by **4.5%** over 2014

- In 2014, **188,500** beacons were produced (+20.7% over 2013)
- In 2013, **156,000** beacons were produced (-2.5% over 2012)
- In 2012: 160,000 beacons were produced (+2.2% over 2011)
- In 2011: 156,000 beacons were produced (-9.6% over 2010)
Preliminary Results of 2016 Survey

~**188,500** beacons were produced in 2015 worldwide, including:

- **Over 97,000 EPIRBs** (increase of annual production: + 6.9% against 2014)
  - annual production growth in 2003 – 2009, and 2014 (+%);
  - annual production decrease in 2010 (- 38%), in 2011 (-6.7%), in 2012 (-3.5%) and 2013 (-0.6% against 2012)

- **About 24,000 ELTs** (decrease in annual production: -3.0% against 2014)
  - annual production growth: in 2005 (+31 %), in 2007 - 2009; in 2013 (+5.5%) and in 2014 (+7.8%)
  - annual production decrease: in 2006 (-10%), 2010 (-20%), in 2011 (- 9.2%) and in 2012 (-10% against 2011)

- **Over 75,000 PLBs** (annual increase: + 4.1% against 2014)
  - annual production decrease in 2010 (- 22%), in 2011 (-12.4%), and in 2013 (-7.7%)
Estimated Global Population

- Over 1,673,000 beacons were in use at the end of 2015
- Annual increase in global beacon population: ~8.1%
2016 Survey Highlights

– 6 manufacturers have not responded to the survey

– 3 manufacturers (6% of all respondents) reported ‘zero’ production in 2015,
  (in 2014: 12%, in 2013: 23%, in 2012: 14%)

– 19 manufacturers (40% of all respondents) produced 1 - 499 units produced in 2015,
  (in 2014: 36%, in 2013: 27%, in 2012: 35%)

– 25 manufacturers (52%) had annual production of > 500 units,
  (in 2014: 47%, in 2013: 50%, in 2012: 51%)
47% of beacon manufacturers reported increase in the annual production volumes in 2015 (54% in 2014).

In 2015, two new beacon manufacturers informed Cospas-Sarsat of their plans to develop and type approve new models.
in 2015, 139,000 LP-beacons were produced, including:

- ELTs: approximately 8,300 (6% of LP-beacons of all types),
- EPIRBs: about 57,600 (41.5% of LP-beacons of all types),
- PLBs: about 73,000 (52.6% of LP-beacons of all types).

2015: over 907,000 LP-beacons were deployed worldwide (54.2% of 406 MHz beacons global population).
### Location Protocol Beacons

**Production Trends in 2004 - 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% of LP-ELT</th>
<th>% of LP-EPIRBs</th>
<th>% of LP-PLBs</th>
<th>% of LP (all types)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>79.1%</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
<td>96.7%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
<td>55.1%</td>
<td>83.2%</td>
<td>70.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Manufacturers’ Plans for 2016

• **220,000** beacons to be produced in 2016 (+ 12% over actual production in 2015), including:

  » EPIRBs: 106,000
  » ELTs: 26,000
  » PLBs: 88,000

• In 2016, global 406 MHz beacon population could reach 1,807,000 (annual growth +8.0%)
Accuracy of Manufacturers Forecasts (all beacon types annual production)
In 2016, the Secretariat expects 20 applications for Type Approval of new beacon models and 15 Change Notices from 14 beacon manufacturers.
For More Information...

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