



**UK Radio Interface Requirement 2029
for Maritime Emergency Position indicating Radio
Beacons (EPIRBs) intended for use on the frequency
121,5MHz or the frequencies 121,5 MHz and 243
MHz for homing purposes only**

(Version 1.0)

98/34/EC Notification Number: 2000/253/UK

Published: 4 January 2001

References

- EN 300 152 Electromagnetic compatibility and Radio spectrum Matters (ERM); Maritime Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) intended for use on the frequency 121,5 MHz or the frequencies 121,5 MHz and 243 MHz for homing purposes only; Technical characteristics and methods of measurement

1. Foreword

- 1.1 The Radio Equipment and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment Directive 99/5/EC (R&TTE Directive) was implemented in the United Kingdom (UK) on the 8 April 2000 by The Radio Equipment and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment Regulations 2000, Statutory Instrument 2000 No. 730. In accordance with Articles 4.1 and 7.2 of Directive 1999/5/EC, this UK Radio Interface Requirement contains the requirements for the licensing and use of maritime Emergency Position indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) intended for use on the frequency 121.5 MHz or the frequencies 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz for homing purposes only.
- 1.2 Nothing in this UK Radio Interface Requirement shall preclude the need for equipment to comply with Directive 1999/5/EC.
- 1.3 It is required by the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 that no radio equipment is installed or used in the UK except under the authority of a licence granted by or otherwise exempted by regulations made by the Secretary of State. It is a condition of such a licence or exemption regulations as appropriate that the equipment must meet the minimum requirements specified in this UK Radio Interface Requirement for the stated equipment types and for the stated frequency bands.
- 1.4 The requirements given in the main body of this UK Radio Interface Requirement will apply to the licensing of maritime Emergency Position indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) intended for use on the frequency 121.5MHz or the frequencies 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz for homing purposes only.
- 1.5 This UK Radio Interface Requirement will be revised as necessary, for example to follow:
 - i) current technology developments for reasons related to the effective and appropriate use of the spectrum in particular maximising spectrum utilisation; and
 - ii) changes to the available spectrum allocated for maritime Emergency Position indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) intended for use on the frequency 121.5 MHz or the frequencies 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz for homing purposes only.
- 1.6 All UK Radio Interface Requirements notified under Directive 98/34/EC will be published and will be made available free of charge from the RA Information and Library Service and/or the RA web-site. The addresses for both the Library and the web-site are given on the back cover of this document.
- 1.7 Further information on this UK Radio Interface Requirement can be obtained from the technical enquiry contact given on the back of this document

2. **Minimum Equipment Requirements for Operation within the UK**

- 2.1 The minimum radio requirements in this document are made for reasons related to the effective and appropriate use of the radio spectrum, in particular maximising spectrum utilisation.
- 2.2 This UK Radio Interface Requirement gives a high level description of how the spectrum in the UK is used for maritime Emergency Position indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) intended for use on the frequency 121.5 MHz or the frequencies 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz for homing purposes only. It does not prescribe a technical interpretation of the ‘essential requirements’ of Directive 1999/5/EC.
- 2.3 This UK Radio Interface Requirement therefore stipulates the necessary equipment parameters for the licensing of maritime Emergency Position indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) intended for use on the frequency 121.5MHz or the frequencies 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz for homing purposes only. Table 2.1 contains the relevant equipment parameters. These together with the ‘essential requirement’ detailed in Articles 3.2 and 3.3(e) of the Directive 1999/5/EC constitute the minimum equipment requirements for maritime Emergency Position indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) intended for use on the frequency 121.5MHz or the frequencies 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz for homing purposes only.
- 2.4 The technical parameters specified in the UK Radio Interface Requirement are applied to achieve the desired level of compatibility within the 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz EPIRB Service and with other radiocommunications services whilst promoting enterprise, innovation and competition.
- 2.5 This UK Radio Interface Requirement provides the necessary technical information which facilitates access to the 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz EPIRB Service spectrum by making clear the assumptions that are made in planning the use of the 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz EPIRB Service spectrum in the UK. It is not the intention of this UK Radio Interface Requirement to duplicate or impose any additional ‘essential requirements’ of the Directive 1999/5/EC on products. Any specified parameters within this document are for the purpose of identifying product options and not as a national product requirement.

Table 2.1: Minimum Equipment Requirements

Frequencies	Licence Class & Radio Service	Additional Requirements
121,5 MHz or 121,5 MHz & 243 MHz	Ship Radio Licence. Maritime Mobile Service.	The equipment shall be in accordance with the relevant sections of the ITU Radio Regulations Article S32, Appxs S13 and S15.

Minimum Duty Cycle	Class of emission	Maximum Power	Additional Requirements
33% with a minimum depth of modulation of 0.85 at an ERPEP* of not less than 75mW for an uninterrupted period of at least 24 hours or at an ERPEP* of not less than 25mW for an uninterrupted period of at least 6 hours for man overboard devices only.	A3X	200mW or 70mW for man overboard devices only.	Other necessary parameters shall be in accordance with Recommendation ITU-R M.690-1.

*Effective Radiated Peak Envelope Power.

Annex A Additional Performance Parameters (Informative)

- A.1 Reference standard ETS300 152 contains additional performance parameters and limits that the Radiocommunications Agency assumes are fulfilled for maritime Emergency Position indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) intended for use on the frequency 121.5 MHz or the frequencies 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz for homing purposes only when planning and managing the radio spectrum in the UK.

Document history

Draft	Date	Changes

Radiocommunications Agency

General Enquiries to the
Information and Library Service:
Tel.: +44-(0) 20-7211-0502 or 0505
Fax: +44 (0) 20-7211- 0507
Email: library@ra.gsi.gov.uk

Technical Enquiries to the
Specialist Sectors Unit
Tel.: +44-(0)20-7211-0225
Fax: +44-(0)20-7211-0228
Email: ams@ra.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.radio.gov.uk

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Postal address:

Specialist Sectors Unit, Wyndham House, 189 Marsh Wall, LONDON, E14 9SX