



**S.I. 2025 No. 31**

**MERCHANT SHIPPING (EMERGENCY POSITION INDICATING  
RADIO BEACON DEVICES) REGULATIONS, 2025**

*Arrangement of Regulations*

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## Merchant Shipping Act

(Act 2024–28)

**MERCHANT SHIPPING (EMERGENCY POSITION INDICATING  
RADIO BEACON DEVICES) REGULATIONS, 2025**

The Minister, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 1476 of the *Merchant Shipping Act*, makes the following Regulations:

**Citation**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the *Merchant Shipping (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon Devices) Regulations, 2025*.

**Definitions**

2. In these Regulations,
- “Act” means the *Merchant Shipping Act, 2024* (Act 2024-28);
- “Barbados ship” has the same meaning as in the Act;
- “competent authority” means the Telecommunications Unit of the Ministry responsible for Telecommunications;
- “Cospas-Sarsat satellite service” means a satellite-aided search and rescue system designed to locate distress beacons transmitting in the 406 MHz band and on other frequencies;
- “emergency position indicating radio beacon” means a device capable of transmitting a distress alert through the Cospas-Sarsat satellite service operating in the 406 MHz band or through the INMARSAT geostationary satellites operating in the 1.6 GHz band;
- “EPIRB” means an emergency position indicating radio beacon;

“INMARSAT” means the Organization established by the Convention on the International Maritime Satellite Organization, adopted on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1976;

“maritime identification digits” means the 3 digits in the maritime mobile service identity that identify the country where the ship is registered;

“maritime mobile service identity” means a 9-digit identification number made up of the 3-digit maritime identification digits followed by a 6-digit identification number;

“operator”, in relation to a ship, includes the master and any charterer, manager or agent of the ship;

“surveyor of ships”, means a person appointed by the Minister, either generally or in a particular case, to exercise the functions of a surveyor under these Regulations; and

“survival craft” means a craft capable of sustaining the lives of persons in distress after abandoning a ship.

### **Purpose**

**3.** The purpose of these Regulations is to provide for matters relating to emergency position indicating radio beacon devices, and generally to promote safety of life at sea through effective maritime communications by radio.

### **Application**

**4.** These Regulations apply to Barbados ships wherever they may be.

### **Competent authority**

**5.** For the purposes of these Regulations, the Telecommunications Unit of the Ministry responsible for Telecommunications is designated as the competent authority for Barbados.

**Registration requirements for EPIRBs**

**6.(1)** The owner and the operator of every Barbados ship shall ensure that every emergency position indicating radio beacon carried on the ship is registered with a competent authority and that the following registered particulars are correct:

- (a) the ship's name;
- (b) its radio call sign;
- (c) its maritime mobile service identity;
- (d) its emergency position indicating radio beacon information;
- (e) a brief description of ship, including its length, type, gross tonnage, hull colour, deck colours and identifying marks;
- (f) the capacity of ship for carrying passengers and crew on board;
- (g) the number of lifeboats and life-rafts;
- (h) the ship's satellite telephone numbers;
- (i) the name, address, telephone number and, if applicable, fax number or e-mail address of an emergency contact person ashore; and
- (j) a 24-hour emergency telephone number for an alternative contact ashore.

(2) Every owner or operator of a ship shall provide evidence that all emergency position indicating radio beacons carried on the ship are registered in accordance with paragraph (1) and readily available on board for inspection at all times by a surveyor of ships.

**Change in registered particulars**

**7.** Where there is any change in the particulars in respect of an emergency position indicating radio beacon registered with a competent authority, the owner or the operator of the ship to which those particulars relate shall, as soon as is

reasonably practicable after the change, give written notice of it to the competent authority.

### **EPIRB licenses for ships engaged on international voyages**

**8.** The Minister may make arrangements with the Minister responsible for Telecommunications for the issuance of emergency position indicating radio beacon licenses to ships engaged on international voyages, including the delegation in writing to the Barbados Maritime Ships' Registry of the power to issue radio station and emergency position indicating radio beacon licenses to Barbados ships engaged on international voyages.

### **Offences**

**9.(1)** An owner or operator of a ship who contravenes regulation 6(1) or regulation 7 commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$10 000.

(2) An owner or operator of a ship who contravenes regulation 6(3) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$7 000.

### **Defence**

**10.** It shall be a defence for a person charged under regulation 9 to show that he took all reasonable steps and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence.

Made by the Minister this 23rd day of April, 2025.

G.P.I. GOODING-EDGHILL

Minister responsible for Shipping