

attention EAB. The modulation, power and frequency stability requirements specified in paragraphs (a)(6), (a)(7) and (a)(8) of this section must be met under the environmental test conditions specified in subpart N, part 2 of this chapter.

(d) Vacuum tubes are not permitted in EPIRB's. The equipment must meet the requirements after extended periods of inaction while carried in vessels and subjected to the environmental conditions prescribed. Operation into any RF load from open to short must not cause continuing degradation in performance.

(e) EPIRBs must be powered by a battery contained within the transmitter case or in a battery holder that is rigidly attached to the transmitter case. The battery connector must be corrosion resistant and positive in action and must not rely for contact upon spring force alone. The useful life of the battery is the length of time that the battery can be stored under marine environmental conditions without the EPIRB transmitter peak effective radiated power falling below 75 milliwatts prior to 48 hours of continuous operation. The month and year of the battery's manufacture must be permanently marked on the battery and the month and year upon which 50 percent of its useful life will have expired must be permanently marked on both the battery and the outside of the transmitter. The batteries must be replaced if 50 percent of their useful life has expired or if the transmitter has been used in an emergency situation. EPIRBs manufactured after April 27, 1992 must display prominently on the outer case one of the following: The battery installation instructions, the title of the manual that contains such information, or the company name and address where the battery installation can be performed.

(f) The EPIRB must be waterproof and must not be accidentally activated by rain, seaspray, hose wash-down spray or storage in high humidity conditions. Standing water on the outer surface must not significantly affect its performance.

(g) Operating instructions understandable by untrained personnel must

be permanently displayed on the equipment.

(h) The exterior of the equipment must have no sharp edges or projections. Means must be provided to fasten the EPIRB to a survival craft or person.

(i) The antenna must be deployable to its designed length and operating position in a foolproof manner. The antenna must be securely attached to the EPIRB and easy to de-ice. The antenna must be vertically polarized and omnidirectional.

[51 FR 31213, Sept. 2, 1986; 52 FR 35246, Sept. 18, 1987, as amended at 53 FR 8905, Mar. 18, 1988; 56 FR 11516, Mar. 19, 1991; 63 FR 36607, July 7, 1998]

**§ 80.1055 Special requirements for Class B EPIRB stations.**

(a) A Class B EPIRB must meet the following:

(1) The EPIRB must be turned on automatically, as by water activated battery, or manually by an on-off switch. A positive means of turning the equipment off must be provided. Where an on-off switch is employed, a guard must be provided to prevent inadvertent operation;

(2) The equipment must be designed to be deployed, its controls actuated, or its antenna erected, each by a single action task which can be performed by either hand;

(3) Meet the requirements in §§ 80.1053(a) (4) through (8), (a)(14), and (c) through (i) of this part. EPIRBs with water activated batteries must, additionally, meet the requirements contained in §§ 80.1053 (a)(10) and (a)(11) of this part,

(4) Bear a designation that indicates it is a "Class B" EPIRB.

(b) A Class B EPIRB may have a manually activated test switch which meets the requirements in § 80.1053 (b) and (c).

(c) If testing of an EPIRB with Coast Guard coordination is not possible, brief operational tests are authorized provided the tests are conducted within the first five minutes of any hour and are not longer than three audio sweeps or one second whichever is longer.

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