

# NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION  
Air Traffic Organization Policy

N JO 7110.500

**Effective Date:**  
February 1, 2009

**Cancellation Date:**  
January 31, 2010


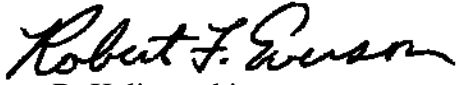
**SUBJ:** Satellite Monitoring of Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Broadcasts Over 121.5 MHz and 243.0 MHz

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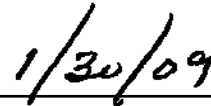
- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice concerns the scheduled end of satellite processing of emergency locator transmitter (ELT) distress signals broadcast over 121.5 MHz and 243.0 MHz on February 1, 2009. The Cospas-Sarsat program is an international search and rescue (SAR) program that uses satellite-aided tracking and is transitioning to the more accurate 406 MHz ELTs.
- 2. Audience.** This notice applies to the following Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units: En Route and Oceanic, Terminal, and System Operations Services, including Flight Services Program Operations, the David J. Hurley Air Traffic Control System Command Center (ATCSCC), and the National Capital Region Coordination Center (NCRCC); the Flight Standards Service's divisions at Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Washington headquarters and international field offices; the Washington Operations Center Complex (WOCC); the Regional Operations Centers (ROC); the William J. Hughes Technical Center; and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.
- 3. Where Can I Find This Notice?** The notice is available on the MYFAA employee Web site at [https://employees.faa.gov/tools\\_resources/orders\\_notices/](https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/) and on the air traffic publications Web site at [http://www.faa.gov/airports\\_airtraffic/air\\_traffic/publications](http://www.faa.gov/airports_airtraffic/air_traffic/publications).
- 4. Explanation of Upcoming Change.** Starting February 1, 2009, the Cospas-Sarsat program will cease processing signals from 121.5 MHz and 243.0 MHz beacons; from then on, only signals from 406 MHz beacons will be processed. The switch to 406 MHz is expected to result in a substantial reduction in wasted use of SAR resources on false alerts while simultaneously increasing the responsiveness of the system for real distress cases.
- 5. Action.** The content in this notice is presented as informational only. No air traffic procedures have changed; therefore, no training is required for air traffic operational personnel.
- 6. Distribution.** This notice is distributed to the following ATO service units: En Route and Oceanic, Terminal, Safety, and System Operations Services, including Flight Services Program Operations, the David J. Hurley ATCSCC, and the NCRCC; the Flight Standards Service's divisions at FAA Washington headquarters and international field offices; the WOCC; the ROCs; the William J. Hughes Technical Center; and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.
- 7. Background.** The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) will now only receive notifications of active 121.5/243 MHz beacons by airborne and ground reports relayed by air route traffic control centers (ARTCC), some terminal facilities, and flight service stations. All facilities are reminded to immediately report activation of these beacons to the AFRCC. AFRCC contact numbers

are (800) 851-3051 or (850) 283-5955. Further information about the frequency phaseout can be found on the Cospas-Sarsat Web site (<http://www.cospas-sarsat.org/FirstPage/121.5PhaseOut.htm>).

**8. Related Publication.** Aeronautical Information Manual, Chapter 6, Emergency Procedures, Section 2, Emergency Services Available to Pilots, Paragraph 6-2-5, Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT).



Nancy B. Kalinowski  
Vice President, System Operations Services  
Air Traffic Organization



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Date Signed