

**Subpart K—Personal Locator Beacons (PLB).**

Sec.

- 95.1400 Basis and purpose.  
 95.1401 Frequency.  
 95.1402 Special requirements for 406 MHz PLBs.

**§ 95.1400 Basis and purpose.**

The rules in this subpart are intended to provide individuals in remote areas a means to alert others of an emergency situation and to aid search and rescue personnel locate those in distress. The effective date for the rules in this subpart will be July 1, 2003.

**§ 95.1401 Frequency.**

The frequency band 406.0–406.1 MHz is an emergency and distress frequency band available for use by Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs). Personal Locator Beacons that transmit on the frequency band 406.0–406.1 MHz must use G1D emission. Use of these frequencies must be limited to transmission of distress and safety communications.

**§ 95.1402 Special requirements for 406 MHz PLBs.**

(a) All 406 MHz PLBs must meet all the technical and performance standards contained in the Radio Technical Commission for Maritime (RTCM) Service document “RTCM Recommended Standards for 406 MHz Satellite Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs),” Version 1.1, RTCM Paper 76–2002/SC110–STD, dated June 19, 2002. This RTCM document is incorporated by reference in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a), and 1 CFR part 51. Copies of the document are available and may be obtained from the Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services, 1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 600, Alexandria, Virginia 22314–2840. The document is available for inspection at Commission headquarters at 445 12th Street SW., Washington, DC 20554. Copies may also be inspected at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street NW., Suite 700, Washington, DC.

(b) The 406 MHz PLB must contain, as an integral part, a homing beacon operating only on 121.500 MHz and meeting all requirements described in the RTCM Recommended Standards document described in paragraph (a) of this section. The 121.500 MHz homing beacon must have a continuous duty cycle that can be interrupted only during the transmission of the 406 MHz signal. The 406 MHz PLB shall transmit a unique identifier (Morse code “P”) on the 121.500 MHz signals.

(c) Before a 406 MHz PLB certification application is submitted to the

Commission, the applicant must have obtained certification from a test facility, recognized by one of the COSPAS/SARSAT Partners that the PLB satisfies the standards contained in the COSPAS/SARSAT document COSPAS/SARSAT 406 MHz Distress Beacon Type Approval Standard (C/S T.007). Additionally, an independent test facility must certify that the PLB complies with the electrical and environmental standards associated with the RTCM Recommended Standards.

(d) The procedures of Notification by the equipment manufacturer and Certification from either the Commission or designated Telecommunications Certification Body are contained in subpart J of part 2 of this chapter.

(e) An identification code, issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the United States Program Manager for the 406 MHz COSPAS/SARSAT satellite system, must be programmed in each PLB unit to establish a unique identification for each PLB station. With each marketable PLB unit, the manufacturer or grantee must include a postage pre-paid registration card printed with the PLB identification code addressed to: SARSAT Beacon Registration, NOAA, NESDIS, E/SP3, Room 3320, FB–4, 5200 Auth Road, Suitland, Maryland 20746–4303. The registration card must request the owner’s name, address, telephone number, alternate emergency contact and include the following statement: “WARNING” failure to register this PLB with NOAA could result in a monetary forfeiture order being issued to the owner.”

(f) To enhance protection of life and property, it is mandatory that each 406 MHz PLB be registered with NOAA and that information be kept up-to-date. In addition to the identification plate or label requirements contained in §§ 2.925 and 2.926 of this chapter, each 406 MHz PLB must be provided on the outside with a clearly discernable permanent plate or label containing the following statement: “The owner of this 406 MHz PLB must register the NOAA identification code contained on this label with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) whose address is: SARSAT Beacon Registration, NOAA, NESDIS, E/SP3, Room 3320, FB–4, 5200 Auth Road, Suitland, Maryland 20746–4303.” Owners shall advise NOAA in writing upon change of PLB ownership, or any other change in registration information. NOAA will provide registrants with proof of registration and change of registration postcards.

(g) For 406 MHz PLBs with identification codes that can be changed after manufacture, the identification code shown on the plate or label must be easily replaceable using commonly available tools.

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Research and Special Programs Administration****49 CFR Parts 107, 171, 173, 177, and 180****[Docket No. RSPA–01–10373 (HM–220D)]****RIN 2137–AD58****Hazardous Materials: Requirements for Maintenance, Requalification, Repair and Use of DOT Specification Cylinders; Correction of Compliance Dates****AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.**ACTION:** Correction to final rule compliance dates.

**SUMMARY:** This document corrects several compliance dates in a final rule published May 8, 2003 (68 FR 24653) that made revisions to certain cylinder requirements. The compliance date for the final rule is corrected to permit immediate voluntary compliance. The delayed compliance dates for two other requirements in the final rule are corrected.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* This rule is effective June 2, 2003. *Compliance Date:* Voluntary compliance is authorized immediately. Delayed compliance dates for certain regulatory provisions are set forth in the regulatory text.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sandra Webb, (202) 366–8553, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards, Research and Special Programs Administration.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

On May 8, 2003, the Research and Special Programs Administration (we, us) published a final rule that responds to appeals submitted by persons affected by an August 8, 2002 final rule. The August 8, 2002 final rule amended certain requirements in the Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR parts 171–180) applicable to the maintenance, requalification, repair, and use of DOT specification cylinders. To allow us additional time to review the issues

raised in the appeals, we published a final rule on September 30, 2002 (67 FR 51626), extending the compliance dates for certain provisions to May 30, 2003.

**Need for Correction**

The May 8, 2003 final rule further delays compliance with certain provisions in the August 8, 2002 final rule beyond May 30, 2003. However, the effective date of the May 8, 2003 final rule is June 9, 2003. This leaves a 9-day gap in which companies may be in technical non-compliance with certain provisions.

In addition, we are correcting an error in amendatory item 14, paragraph b of the May 8, 2003 final rule. In that item we indicated that we were revising paragraph (h)(2)(iv) and the beginning of the first sentence in paragraph (h)(3) introductory text of § 173.301. However, the revision to paragraph (h)(3) introductory text incorrectly appeared as paragraph (h)(2) introductory text.

**Correction**

■ In rule document 03-11334, on page 24653 in the issue of Thursday, May 8, 2003, make the following correction:

■ On page 24653 in the third column, in the **DATES** section, the Compliance Date is corrected to read as set forth above in the **DATES** section of this document.

**PART 173—[CORRECTED]**

■ On page 24661, in the first column, the beginning of the first sentences in paragraphs (h)(2) introductory text and (h)(3) introductory text are revised to read as follows:

**§ 173.301 General requirements for shipment of compressed gases in cylinders and spherical pressure vessels.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(h) \* \* \*

(2) For cylinders manufactured before October 1, 2007, \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

(3) For cylinders manufactured on or after October 1, 2007, \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

Issued in Washington, DC on May 27, 2003 under authority delegated in 49 CFR part 1.

**Samuel G. Bonasso,**

*Acting Administrator, Research and Special Programs Administration.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 660**

[Docket No. 021209300-3048-02 I.D. 052103A]

**Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Annual Specifications and Management Measures; Trip Limit Adjustments**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Inseason adjustments to the trawl rockfish conservation area boundaries; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces changes to the closed areas affecting the limited entry trawl fleet and open access exempted trawl fleet, also known as the trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas (trawl RCAs). For the trawl "B" platoon, the closed areas for the cumulative limit period beginning May 16 through June 30, 2003, will be the same for the "A" platoon. For the remainder of the "B" platoon cumulative limit period, from July 1 through July 15, 2003, the "B" platoon will be subject to the closed areas that were in place for the "A" platoon through June 30, 2003. These actions, which are authorized by the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), will allow fisheries access to more abundant groundfish stocks while protecting overfished and depleted stocks.

**DATES:** Effective 0001 hours local time May 28, 2003, until the 2004 annual specifications and management measures are effective, unless modified, superseded, or rescinded through a publication in the **Federal Register**. Comments on this action will be accepted through June 17, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments to D. Robert Lohn, Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115-0070; or Rod McInnis, Acting Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carrie Nordeen or Jamie Goen (Northwest Region, NMFS), phone: 206-526-6140; fax: 206-526-6736; and e-mail: *carrie.nordeen@noaa.gov* or *jamie.goen@noaa.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Electronic Access**

This **Federal Register** document is available on the Government Printing Office's website at: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/ca/docs/aces/aces140.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/ca/docs/aces/aces140.html). Background information and documents are available at the NMFS Northwest Region website at: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1sustfsh/gdfsh01.htm> and at the Pacific Fishery Management Council's website at: <http://www.pcouncil.org>.

**Background**

The Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 660, subpart G, regulate fishing for over 80 species of groundfish off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. Annual groundfish specifications and management measures are initially developed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council), and are implemented by NMFS. The specifications and management measures for the 2003 fishing year (January 1 - December 31, 2003) were initially published in the **Federal Register** as an emergency rule for January 1 - February 28, 2003 (68 FR 908, January 7, 2003) and as a proposed rule for March 1 - December 31, 2003 (68 FR 936, January 7, 2003). The emergency rule was amended at 68 FR 4719, January 30, 2003, and the final rule for March 1 - December 31, 2003 was published in the **Federal Register** on March 7, 2003 (68 FR 11182). The final rule has been subsequently amended at 68 FR 18166 (April 15, 2003), at 68 FR 23901 (May 6, 2003), and at 68 FR 23924 (May 6, 2003).

The following changes to current groundfish management measures were recommended by the Pacific Council, in consultation with Pacific Coast Treaty Tribes and the States of Washington, Oregon, and California, at its April 7-11, 2003, meeting in Vancouver, WA.

The NMFS West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (Observer Program) released observer data collected from September 2001 through August 2002 at a bycatch workshop in January 2003. At the Pacific Council's April meeting, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reported that they considered bycatch rates based on observer data in the groundfish trawl fishery to be the best available scientific data for use in the bycatch model. Both the SSC and the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) supported incorporating trawl bycatch rates from the Observer Program into the bycatch model as soon as possible. Following the SSC and GMT recommendations, the Pacific Council decided to use the preliminary observer-