

# UK Interface Requirement 2029

**UK Radio interface requirement 2029 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**

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## Section 1

# References

- 1.1 EN 300 152 Electromagnetic compatibility and Radio spectrum Matters (ERM); Maritime Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB) 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.

## Section 2

# Foreword

- 2.1 The Radio Equipment Directive (Directive 2014/53/EU) was implemented in the United Kingdom (UK) 2016 by the Radio Equipment Regulations 2017. In accordance with Articles 8 and 7 of Directive 2014/53/EU, 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.
- 2.2 Nothing in this UK Radio Interface Requirement shall preclude the need for equipment to comply with Directive 2014/53/EU.
- 2.3 It is required by the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 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 Ofcom. It is a condition of such a licence or exemption regulations as appropriate that, in order to be installed or used in the UK, the equipment must meet the minimum requirements specified in this UK Interface Requirement for the stated equipment types and for the stated frequency bands. Nothing in this UK Interface Requirement shall preclude equipment from being placed on the market in the UK that complies with the 'essential requirements' specified in Directive 2014/53/EU.
- 2.4 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 121.5 MHz or the frequencies 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz for homing purposes only.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 All UK Radio Interface Requirements notified under Directive 2015/1535/EU will be published and will be made available free of charge from the Ofcom web-site at <http://www.ofcom.org.uk>.
- 2.7 Further information on this UK Radio Interface Requirement can be obtained from the technical enquiry contact given at the back of this document.

## Section 3

# Minimum requirements for operation within the UK

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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 technical interpretation of the 'essential requirements' of Directive 2014/53/EU.
- 3.3 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 121.5 MHz or the frequencies 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz for homing purposes only in the UK. Table 3.1 contain the relevant equipment parameters. These taken together with the 'essential requirements' detailed in Articles 3.2 and 3.3(g) of Directive 2014/53/EU constitute the minimum requirements for maritime Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) intended for use on the frequency 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz for homing purpose only within the UK. Nothing in this UK Interface Requirement shall preclude equipment from being placed on the market in the UK that complies with the 'essential requirements' specified in Directive 2014/53/EU.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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 2014/53/EU on products. Any specified parameters within this document are for the purpose of identifying product options and not as a national de facto product requirement.



**Table 3.1: Minimum requirements for the use of: - EPIRBs operating in the 121.5 MHz & 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz band**

Mandatory (1-9)		
1	<b>Frequency / Bands</b>	121.5 MHz or 121.5 MHz & 243 MHz
2	<b>Radio service</b>	Maritime Mobile Service
3	<b>Application</b>	Ship Radio Licence, Ship Portable Radio Licence
4	<b>Channelling / modulation</b>	A3X
5	<b>Maximum transmit power limit</b>	200mW or 70mW for man overboard devices only
6	<b>Channel occupation rules</b>	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. *Effective Radiated Peak Envelope Power.
7	<b>Duplex type / separation</b>	N/A
8	<b>Licensing Regime</b>	Ship Radio Licence, Ship Portable Radio Licence
9	<b>Additional essential requirements</b>	The equipment shall be in accordance with the relevant sections of the ITU Radio Regulations Article S32, Appxs S13 and S15. Other necessary parameters shall be in accordance with Recommendation ITU-R M.690-1. *Effective
Informative (10-13)		
10	Frequency planning assumptions	N/A
11	Reference	EN 300 152
12	Remarks	N/A
13	Notification Number	2000/253 UK



## Section 4

# Additional performance parameters

### (informative)

A.1 Reference standard EN 300 152 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.

## Section 5

# Contact details

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## Section 6

# Document history

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	04 Jan 2001	Draft Published
1.1	17 Dec 2009	Ofcom template
2.0	January 2018	Replaced R&TTE Directive 1999/5/EC and Directive 98/34/EC with Radio Equipment Directive and Directive (EU) 2015/1535 respectively. Minor editorials