

Bermuda registered aircraft 406 MHz Emergency Locator Transponder (ELT) Licensing, Programming and Registration Information Sheet

It is recommended that persons fitting an ELT to a Bermuda registered aircraft read this information sheet prior to obtaining or installing an ELT. This ensures the correct licensing, programming and registration of the ELT in accordance with international and Bermuda requirements.

1. The Bermuda Dept. of Civil Aviation advises that certain Bermuda registered aircraft are *required* by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Regulations to carry a 406 MHz Emergency Locator Transponder (ELT) from the 1st January 2005. The ICAO *recommends* that, from 2005, all aircraft under the jurisdiction of the ICAO Convention and engaged in international voyages carry an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) operating on the frequency 406 MHz for compatibility with the Cospas-Sarsat System, and on 121.5 MHz for "homing" purposes. For Bermuda registered aircraft, the Dept. of Civil Aviation can be contacted for further discussion at (441) 293 1640. See note 3.
2. The Bermuda Dept. of Telecommunications is the administrator of Class Six Radio Licences for radio equipment onboard Bermuda registered aircraft, and may be contacted at (441) 292 4595.
3. Every 406 MHz ELT must be programmed with two key items of information :
 - 3.1 The first relates to the country in which the ELT / aircraft is registered. This 3 digit country code or Maritime Identification Digits (MID) is 310 for Bermuda.
 - 3.2 The second item of information identifies the aircraft to Search and Rescue authorities. This is achieved by programming the ELT using either of the two protocols accepted by Bermuda :
 - i) The 'Registration Marking Protocol' – This involves programming the ELT with the Dept. of Civil Aviation Registration ID (i.e. VP-ABC).
 - ii) The 'Manufacturer's CSTA Number plus Manufacturer's Serial Number Protocol' – This involves programming the ELT with the "COSPAS / SARSAT Type Approval Number" TOGETHER WITH the Manufacturer's Serial Number for the particular ELT.

(The CSTA Number is issued by COSPAS / SARSAT to ELT manufacturers for every ELT model. These can be found per ELT model, from the COSPAS / SARSAT web pages [List of Type Approved Beacons By Manufacturer](#)).

Protocol ii) is more commonly used by those preferring Artex ELT's with the Artex NAV interface which uses Mode S. (By default Bermuda registered aircraft are incorrectly assigned the UK MID 232 – the UK does not support Bermuda registered aircraft – this protocol was designed and successfully by-passes that functionality).

ELT programmers should be advised when multiple ELT's are carried onboard the same aircraft. Each ELT shall be programmed such that a distinct Identity Code results. Programmers should provide you with evidence of successful programming, including these important Identity Codes.
4. All 406 MHz ELTs fitted to Bermuda registered aircraft must be registered with Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC) Bermuda (Bermuda Harbour Radio) using the appropriate registration form. Call (441) 297-1010 to obtain a copy by fax, or visit their web site at : www.rccbermuda.bm

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The importance of registering your 406 MHz ELT

A registration form must be completed and returned if full benefit from the operation of your 406 MHz ELT is to be obtained. While search and rescue authorities will be able to determine the position of the ELT, the registration process ensures that the aircraft on which the ELT is carried can also be identified. In addition, the emergency contact information supplied on the registration form enables the RCC to contact a related party ashore which sometimes provides further crucial information on the circumstances of the distress.

Registration information is also critical in the case of accidental ELT activation, where the owner of an ELT may need to be traced in order to have the ELT switched off.

Dependent upon where an ELT is purchased, it may be supplied pre-programmed and an Identity Code provided by the retailer. This needs to be changed to a Bermuda Identity Code at the time of purchase by having your aircraft Registration Marking OR the CSTA Number and Manufacturer's Serial Number programmed into the ELT. Similarly any registration form supplied by the retailer should not be used. Obtain and complete a [Bermuda 406 MHz ELT Registration Form](#). A bi-annual re-registration to confirm your aircraft and ELT details, and emergency contact information will also be undertaken.

RCC Bermuda staff are available 24 hours to answer any questions about this important process.

Telephone: (441) 297-1010 Fax : (441) 297-1530 E-mail : operations@rccbermuda.bm

For further information please refer to the [Department of Civil Aviation \(DCA\) Letters to Operators number 007](#) issued 8th November 2004.