

The image features three satellites in space. On the left is a large satellite with a prominent yellow and white structure and a large blue solar panel. In the upper right is a smaller satellite with a blue and purple rectangular panel. In the lower right is a cylindrical satellite with blue solar panels and a black and white striped section, with the Greek text 'ΚΟ ΣΤΑΣ' visible. The background is a dark space filled with stars, and the blue and white horizon of Earth is visible at the bottom.

COSPAS-SARSAT PROGRAMME INSIGHT

STEVEN LETT
HEAD OF SECRETARIAT

TWO TOPICS TO COVER

- ❑ **COSPAS-SARSAT PROGRAMME DOCUMENTATION
PUBLIC AND ON THE INTERNET**
- ❑ **THE INTERNATIONAL BEACON REGISTRATION DATABASE
WWW.406REGISTRATION.COM**



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WHAT COSPAS-SARSAT IS AND IS NOT

Is:

- AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATIVE OF 41 COUNTRIES AND 2 AGENCIES
- COORDINATES THE EFFORTS OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS TO DEPLOY THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO DETECT AND LOCATE DISTRESS BEACONS AND REPORT THAT INFORMATION TO SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) AUTHORITIES
- DOES THIS BY CREATING AND DOCUMENTING STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES AGREED BY CONSENSUS

Is NOT:

- A REGULATORY BODY – THAT IS THE ROLE OF NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS
- AN OPERATIONAL SAR UNIT – THAT IS THE ROLE OF NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS



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THE KEY COSPAS-SARSAT DOCUMENTS

COORDINATION OF COSPAS-SARSAT ACTIVITIES AND THE SETTING OF POLICIES IS DONE PRIMARILY THROUGH THE MAINTENANCE AND UPDATING OF DOCUMENTS THROUGH A CONSENSUS PROCESS. THESE DOCUMENTS INCLUDE:

C/S A.000 SERIES - OPERATIONAL

C/S D.000 SERIES - IBRD

C/S G.000 SERIES - GENERAL

C/S P.000 SERIES - PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

C/S R.000 SERIES - REPORTS

C/S T.000 SERIES - TECHNICAL



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OPERATIONAL DOCUMENTS – C/S A.000 SERIES

- C/S A.001 - COSPAS-SARSAT DATA DISTRIBUTION PLAN
- C/S A.002 - COSPAS-SARSAT MISSION CONTROL CENTRES STANDARD INTERFACE DESCRIPTION
- C/S A.003 - COSPAS-SARSAT SYSTEM MONITORING AND REPORTING
- C/S A.004 - PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT
- C/S A.005 - COSPAS-SARSAT MISSION CONTROL CENTRE (MCC) PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATION AND DESIGN GUIDELINES
- C/S A.006 - COSPAS-SARSAT MISSION CONTROL CENTRE COMMISSIONING STANDARD



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TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS – C/S T.000 SERIES

- ❑ C/S T.001 - SPECIFICATION FOR COSPAS-SARSAT 406 MHZ DISTRESS BEACONS
- ❑ C/S T.002 - COSPAS-SARSAT LOCAL USER TERMINAL PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATION AND DESIGN GUIDELINES
- ❑ C/S T.003 - DESCRIPTION OF THE PAYLOADS USED IN THE COSPAS-SARSAT LEOSAR SYSTEM
- ❑ C/S T.004 - COSPAS-SARSAT LEOSAR SPACE SEGMENT COMMISSIONING STANDARD
- ❑ C/S T.005 - COSPAS-SARSAT LEOLUT COMMISSIONING STANDARD
- ❑ C/S T.006 - COSPAS-SARSAT ORBITOGRAPHY NETWORK SPECIFICATION
- ❑ C/S T.007 - COSPAS-SARSAT 406 MHZ DISTRESS BEACON TYPE APPROVAL STANDARD
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GENERAL DOCUMENTS – C/S G.000 SERIES

- ❑ C/S G.003 - INTRODUCTION TO THE COSPAS-SARSAT SYSTEM
- ❑ C/S G.005 - COSPAS-SARSAT GUIDELINES ON 406 MHZ BEACON CODING, REGISTRATION AND TYPE APPROVAL
- ❑ C/S G.007 - HANDBOOK ON DISTRESS ALERT MESSAGES FOR RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRES (RCCs), SEARCH AND RESCUE POINTS OF CONTACT (SPOCs) AND IMO SHIP SECURITY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES
- ❑ C/S G.008 - OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR COSPAS-SARSAT SECOND GENERATION 406 MHZ BEACONS



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A BRIEF WORD ABOUT SPOC COMMUNICATION TESTS

- ❖ COSPAS-SARSAT STARTED IN 2008 REGULAR TESTING OF MCC/SPOC COMMUNICATIONS
- ❖ THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION'S SUB-COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS, SEARCH AND RESCUE REQUESTED COSPAS-SARSAT TO REPORT ON THESE MCC/SPOC COMMUNICATION TESTS
- ❖ FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 2008 TO AUGUST 2012, 20 OF 30 OPERATIONAL MCCS REPORTED RESULTS OF MCC/SPOC COMMUNICATION TESTS RESULTS (SOME MCCS DO NOT SUPPORT SPOCS OUTSIDE OF THEIR COUNTRY, AND THOSE ARE NOT REQUIRED TO CONDUCT THESE TESTS)
- ❖ A TOTAL OF 10,806 UNIQUE TESTS WERE CONDUCTED

	NUMBER (2012)	PERCENT (2012)	PERCENT (2011)	PERCENT (2010)
NUMBER OF SPOCS TESTED BY MCCS	169			
NON-RESPONSIVE SPOCS (NO ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS)	17	10.1%	10.0%	7.8%
SPOCS WITH LESS THAN 20% SUCCESSFUL TESTS	8	4.7%	6.8%	10.3%
SPOCS WITH SUCCESSFUL TESTS BETWEEN 20% AND 50%	16	9.5%	7.5%	7.2%



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THE VIEWS OF IMO ABOUT THE TESTS

THE IMO'S SUB-COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS, SEARCH AND RESCUE CONCLUDED LAST YEAR THAT THE REPORT BY THE COSPAS-SARSAT SECRETARIAT THAT THERE WAS A LOW RESPONSE RATE FROM SOME SPOCS TO COSPAS-SARSAT TEST CALLS WAS A MATTER OF CONCERN, AND THAT THE SAR WORKING GROUP SUPPORTED CONTINUATION OF THE TEST CALL PROGRAMME, AND COMSAR INVITED THE MSC TO REMIND MEMBER STATES, WITH A LOW RESPONSE RATE, OF THE IMPORTANCE OF A RELIABLE TEST CALL RESPONSE, AND FOR THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE TO INFORM THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE ON THE PERCEIVED NEED BY SOME COUNTRIES FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.



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WHO GETS YOUR ALERTS AND COMM TESTS?

[http://www.cospas-sarsat.org/en/component/cospasfrontend/SAR%20Points%20of%20Contact%20\(SPOCs\)/showSPOC/178](http://www.cospas-sarsat.org/en/component/cospasfrontend/SAR%20Points%20of%20Contact%20(SPOCs)/showSPOC/178)



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BEACON REGISTRATION

THE “REGISTRATION” OF BEACONS IN A GOVERNMENT DATABASE OR IN THE COSPAS-SARSAT INTERNATIONAL BEACON REGISTRATION DATABASE SERVES CRITICAL SEARCH-AND-RESCUE FUNCTIONS WHEN AN ALERT IS RECEIVED:

- HELPS SAR AUTHORITIES TO DETERMINE THE AIRCRAFT OR VESSEL IN DISTRESS
- PROVIDES BEACON-OWNER CONTACT INFORMATION SO THAT CALLS CAN BE MADE TO DETERMINE IF BEACON ACTIVATION WAS INADVERTENT
- PROVIDES CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ASSOCIATES OF THE BEACON OWNER WHO MAY BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE INFORMATION ABOUT THE VESSEL, THE VOYAGE/FLIGHTPLAN, NUMBER OF PASSENGERS, ETC.



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BEACON REGISTRATION

BECAUSE BEACON REGISTRATION IS SO IMPORTANT, IT SHOULD BE MADE AS EASY AS POSSIBLE FOR BEACON OWNERS TO REGISTER AND TO UPDATE INFORMATION.

THIS IS TRUE WHETHER THE REGISTRATION FACILITY IS MANAGED BY:

- A NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OR
- COSPAS-SARSAT THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL BEACON REGISTRATION DATABASE (IBRD)

IF YOU DO NOT MAKE REGISTRATION OBVIOUS AND EASY FOR THE BEACON OWNER, THEN YOUR JOB BECOMES HARDER WHEN AN ALERT IS RECEIVED



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THE INTERNATIONAL BEACON REGISTRATION DATABASE (IBRD)

THE IBRD, MANAGED BY THE COSPAS-SARSAT SECRETARIAT, SERVES TWO IMPORTANT PURPOSES:

- IT CAN BE USED AS AN ABSOLUTELY FREE RESOURCE FOR COUNTRIES TO ALLOW THEIR BEACON OWNERS TO REGISTER BEACONS
- IT PROVIDES A CENTRAL REPOSITORY FOR SAR AUTHORITIES TO RETRIEVE INFORMATION DURING A RESCUE WHEN AN ALERT IS RECEIVED



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REGISTRATION ISSUES REMAIN

Country	National Beacon Register (24/7) [Yes or No]	Number of Beacons Registered in the National Beacon Register (24/7)					Number of Beacons Registered in the IRBD				National Contacts for Beacon Matters (Coding, Registration and Type Approval) [Yes or No]
		ELTs	EPIRBs	PLBs	Total		ELTs	EPIRBs	PLBs	Total	
Australia	Y	5,693	191,084	65,944	262,721	*	0	0	0	0	Y
Bangladesh	N	3	0	0	3	Low Number	3	0	0	3	N
Cambodia	N	3	74	0	77		3	76	0	79	N
Hong Kong, China	Y	705	2,214	71	2,990	Small Mismatch	710	1,902	58	2,670	Y
France / New Caledonia	Y (France)	61	25	376	462	*	0	0	0	0	Y (France)
India	Y	2,799	7,525	2,751	13,075	*	0	0	0	0	Y
Indonesia	Y	1,206	97	30	1,333	*	0	0	0	0	Y
Japan	Y	3,553	6,601	0	10,154		1,255	2	0	1,257	Y
Malaysia	Y	0	120	0	120	*	0	0	0	0	Y
Maldives	Y	29	20	0	49	*	0	0	0	0	N
Nepal	N	18	0	0	18		18	0	0	18	N
New Zealand	Y	3,542	14,017	15,878	33,437	*	0	0	0	0	Y
Oman	Y	208	4	370	582		208	4	371	583	N
Philippines	Y	122	0	0	122	Small Mismatch	147	0	0	147	Y
Singapore	Y	1,083	1,024	10	2,117	*	0	0	0	0	Y

*National Database Not Uploaded to IBRD



BEACON REGISTRATION TAKEAWAYS

- REGISTRATION IS IMPORTANT TO YOU – IT SAVES YOU TIME AND RESOURCES WHEN AN ALERT IS RECEIVED AND A RESCUE MIGHT BE LAUNCHED.
- REGISTRATION (AND UPDATES) NEEDS TO BE OBVIOUS AND EASY FOR BEACON OWNERS
- IF YOU HAVE THE RESOURCES TO MAINTAIN YOUR OWN BEACON REGISTRY, THAT IS FINE, BUT REMEMBER TO UPLOAD/UPDATE THAT INFORMATION FREQUENTLY ON THE IBRD SO THAT IT IS AVAILABLE TO OTHER SAR RESPONDERS
- IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO MAINTAIN YOUR OWN REGISTRY, USE THE IBRD – IT'S FREE!
- BUT YOU NEED TO PUBLICIZE TO YOUR BEACON-OWNER COMMUNITY (MARINERS AND PILOTS) THAT THEY MUST REGISTER THEIR BEACONS



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