



406 MHz EMERGENCY DISTRESS BEACON REGISTRATION, FALSE ACTIVATION AND IMPACT ON SAR OPERATIONS

1 406 MHz Emergency Distress Beacon Registration

1.1 Importance of Registration

Registration your 406 MHz emergency distress beacons with the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) is vital for ensuring prompt and effective Search and Rescue (SAR) responses in the event of an emergency. Registration provides crucial information to SAR authorities, enabling Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre / Aeronautical Rescue Sub Centre (ARCC/ARCS) to swiftly locate and assist the distressed aircraft.

1.2 Registration Process

Contact the SAR Unit, CAAM through beaconreg@caam.gov.my to initiate the registration process for your 406 MHz distress beacons. Use the provided forms to provide correct information about your aircraft, such as its identity, ownership, and operational details.

1.3 Update Information

Regularly review and update your distress beacon registration information, especially in case of any changes to your aircraft or contact details. This ensures ARCC/ARSC have up-to-date information, allowing them to respond quickly in an emergency, by contacting the 24-hour emergency contact person(s) for verification.

2 CAAM's Initiatives to Enhance Beacon Registration

2.1 Online Registration Platform

CAAM is currently in the process of implementing a user-friendly online database registration platform to streamline the beacon registration process. The platform allows owners, airline operators, and CAMO (Continuing Airworthiness Management Organisation) to easily register their distress beacons, update information, and receive confirmation electronically. The 406 MHz Beacon Registrations online database is provided free of charge by CAAM.

The online database registration platform is expected to be in operation effective on 1 August 2024. An Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) will be published to notify and provide guidelines to users regarding the usage of the platform.

2.2 Automated Reminders

The online platform enables automated reminders that prompt users to examine and update their beacon registration information when the battery nears its expiration date. These reminders help to ensure that the information is accurate and up to date, increasing the effectiveness of SAR if required.

2.3 Education and Outreach

CAAM supports educational campaigns and outreach initiatives, as such engagements with stakeholders to raise awareness about the importance of beacon registration and the impact of false activations on SAR operations. These efforts aim to encourage compliance with registration requirements and promote responsible use of distress beacons among the aviation community.

3 False Activation and Impact to SAR Operations

3.1 Consequences of False Activation

False activation of 406 MHz distress beacons can have significant consequences for SAR operations. It diverts valuable SAR resources, including aircraft, personnel, and time, from genuine emergencies, potentially delaying response to those in actual distress.

3.2 Prevention Measures

- a) Familiarise yourself with the proper use of the distress beacon to minimise inadvertent activation.
- b) Ensure the distress beacon is securely stowed and inaccessible during routine flight operations to prevent inadvertent triggers.
- c) Conduct regular checks and maintenance of the distress beacon to ensure its functionality and reliability.
- d) Educate crew members on board about the importance of avoiding false activations and the potential impact on SAR operations.

3.3 Response to False Activation

In the event of a false activation, immediately notify air traffic control (Tower / Air Traffic Control Centre) or ARCC/ARSC to report the false alarm. Provide precise details of the false activation, including your aircraft's current position and the reason

for the false alarm, to assist ARCC/ARSC in managing the situation effectively. Take appropriate actions deactivating or resetting the distress beacon.

3.4 **Impact on SAR Operations**

False activations of 406 MHz distress beacons impose unnecessary strain on SAR resources and may result in delayed response to genuine emergencies. By minimising false activations through responsible use and proper maintenance of distress beacons, owners or operators can help ensure SAR resources are available when truly needed, potentially saving lives.

4 **Conclusion**

- 4.1 Proper registration, maintenance, and responsible use of 406 MHz emergency distress beacons are essential for aviation safety and effective SAR operations. By registering your distress beacon, adhering to regulatory requirements, and taking precautions to prevent false activations, you play a crucial role in enhancing aviation safety and supporting SAR efforts.
- 4.2 Every false activation affects the effectiveness of SAR actions and may impact others' safety. Keep yourself aware, be ready, and fly safely.

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for Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia
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