

Our Ref: RCCNZ 406MHz advice

17 November 2012

Dear Beacon Retailer

Your vital role as a seller of 406MHz distress beacons

We need your help

Your company, as a retailer of 406MHz distress beacons, interacts with the end users of distress beacons at the point of sale and plays a vital role in ensuring the success of the 406MHz distress network. The Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ) seeks your help to ensure that your staff has accurate information about the distress beacon network and that the information they provide to the public is also accurate.

Incorrect, inconsistent and misleading information about distress beacons has led to a number of recent cases where distress beacons (particularly PLBs) have been misused and lives have been put at risk.

Who we are

The Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ) is the government agency tasked with maintaining the 406MHz distress beacon network within the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region. This includes:

- provision of a satellite receiving station to detect and process the 406MHz distress alerts
- membership in COSPAS – SARSAT, the international organisation that provides the global 406MHz satellite network
- provision of a 24/7 rescue coordination centre that coordinates a rescue response when a 406MHz distress alert is received.

You are a vital link in the chain

It is a legal requirement to register all beacons. Retailers play a vital role in ensuring that customers register their beacons and that they know how to use them. RCCNZ has put together an information pack to accompany this letter. We hope that you, as the retailer, can use this information to provide sound advice and guidance both to your staff and your customers on the best practice use of 406MHz distress beacons.

This pack contains:

1. A letter with helpful hints for retailers of 406MHz distress beacons.
2. Scenarios based on real events that can be used to demonstrate good and bad practice when operating a 406MHz personal locator beacon.
3. "Distress beacons save lives" – a brochure about the 406MHz distress beacon network.
4. "At the heart of land, sea and air rescues" – a brochure outlining the role of RCCNZ.
5. A beacon registration form.
6. Examples of the free safe boating publications available from Maritime New Zealand (RCCNZ's parent organisation).

The material contained in the information pack is freely available. If you need extra copies of any of the above, please contact RCCNZ and we will arrange for more to be sent to you.

RCCNZ recognises the vital role you play in the success of the 406MHz distress beacon network. We want to work with you to ensure the distress network continues to save lives. If you have any feedback about this letter or simply want to know more about the 406MHz distress beacon network, please contact us during normal business hours (see below).

Yours sincerely



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Nigel Clifford

General Manager Safety & Response

How to contact RCCNZ

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