

RECOMMENDATION ITU-R M.633-2*

**TRANSMISSION CHARACTERISTICS OF A SATELLITE EMERGENCY
POSITION-INDICATING RADIO BEACON (SATELLITE EPIRB)
SYSTEM OPERATING THROUGH A LOW POLAR-ORBITING
SATELLITE SYSTEM IN THE 406 MHz BAND**

(Question ITU-R 90/8)

(1986-1990-2000)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

- a) that satellite EPIRBs can be used for distress alerting in the maritime, land and aeronautical environments;
- b) that satellite EPIRBs with common characteristics may be employed in diverse operating environments;
- c) that satellite EPIRBs are one of the prime alerting means in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO);
- d) that all ships to which Chapter IV of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended in 1988, applies are required by Regulation IV/7.1.6 to carry a satellite EPIRB from 1 August 1993;
- e) that SOLAS Regulation IV/7.1.6 provides for the carriage of a satellite EPIRB operating in the 406 MHz band;
- f) the assured availability of four operational Cospas-Sarsat type satellites in orbit until the year 2003 and the planned availability thereafter;
- g) the current and projected availability of the Cospas-Sarsat ground system;
- h) the test results presented in Report ITU-R M.919,

recommends

- 1** that the transmission characteristics and data formats for a satellite EPIRB operating through a low polar-orbiting satellite system in the 406 MHz band should be in accordance with Cospas-Sarsat Document C/S T.001 (Issue 3, Revision 2 October 1998 titled Specification for Cospas-Sarsat Distress Beacons).

* This Recommendation should be brought to the attention of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO).