

GMDSS Task Force  
1600 N. Oak Street, #427  
Arlington VA 22209

8 February 2013

Robert Markle, President  
Radio Technical Commission  
for Maritime Services (RTCM)  
1611 N. Kent Street, #605  
Arlington VA 22209

Dear Bob,

Subject: RTCM Standard for Personal Locator Beacons (PLB)

I am writing to advise you that the GMDSS Task Force, at its meeting of 31 January 2013, strongly supported a proposal that the standard for Personal Locator Beacons (PLB) as developed by RTCM Special Committee No. 110 be revised to incorporate GNSS positioning capability.

The Task Force is mindful that the National Transportation Safety Board, the RTCM, and the GMDSS Task Force have all gone on record advocating that the RTCM EPIRB Standard be updated to require an integral GNSS positioning capability and that RTCM S.C.-110 has taken such action.

The Task Force is also advised that the overwhelming majority of PLBs on the market already have integral GNSS positioning capability in response to consumer demand and the Task Force feels that in the interest of public safety, the RTCM Standard for PLBs should be updated to require an integral GNSS positioning capability similar to the EPIRB requirement.

Thank you very much for considering this recommendation.

Sincerely,

JACK FUECHSEL  
Director, GMDSS Task Force  
703-527-0484

Copy to: Chris Hoffman, SC-110

File: GMDSS TF on PLB Standard