



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

MARINE SAFETY ALERT

Inspections and Compliance Directorate

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Washington, DC

Safety Alert 03-97

ALDEN EPIRB ALERT

BATTERY SHORTAGE FOR SATFIND 406 EPIRB MODEL M3 AND M4

Due to a recent electrical fire, the supplier of the only approved D-cell Lithium Manganese Dioxide battery cells for the SATFIND-406™ EPIRB Model s M3 and M4 is temporarily unable to provide EPIRB battery packs.

The US Coast Guard is allowing owners of Satfind - 406™ Model M3 or M4 EPIRB's that have battery expiration dates through June of 1997 limited extensions for battery replacement provided that the following conditions are met.

1. The EPIRB must pass a self test, and
2. The owner or captain has onboard, a written (and dated) confirmation that an order for a replacement battery pack has been placed with a dealer.

If the EPIRB does not pass self test, it **must** be returned to Alden Electronics Inc. for repair or be replaced with a unit that complies with government regulations. If the Captain is unable to produce written proof (on board) of an order for a replacement battery pack, all normal Coast Guard procedures will apply.

For further information or assistance call Alden at 1-800-225-4767.

This safety alert is provided for informational purpose only and does not relieve any domestic or international safety, operational or material requirement. Developed by the Office of Investigations and Casualty Analysis. For questions or concerns please email hqs-pf-fldr-cg-inv@uscg.mil.