



## TECHNICAL BULLETIN TB03-2022

1<sup>st</sup> February 2022

### Guidance regarding ships that have been assigned with their own MMSI numbers in the series 98MIDxxxx for «crafts associated with parent ship» according to ITU-R M.585-4 (*or newer*) and programming of EPIRBs

Most ships will have a MMSI number in the format MIDxxxxxx, where MID is the country code according to ITU "[table of Maritime Identification Digits](#)" for each flag state. "xxxxxx" is the six last digits assigned by flag state to that specific vessel. But if this vessel is a ferry, cruise ship etc, has many lifeboats, MOB boats and operating in areas which requires radio equipment like EPIRBs, DSC VHF, AIS etc in these boats, they might have additional assigned MMSI numbers to these «daughter crafts». These assigned MMSI number will be in the format 98MIDxxxx, where the country code (MID) is preceded by 98.

What is important to note is that these assigned MMSI numbers starting with 98 SHOULD NOT BE USED IN COSPAS / SARSAT EMERGENCY BEACONS as the Cospas-Sarsat system is not able to forward emergency messages to the correct administration if the MID (country code) is not placed as the first three digits of the MMSI number.

Emergency beacon transmitters (EPIRBs) MUST use the parent vessel's MMSI number, and the "Beacon no" is used in the programming to distinguish them from each other. Up to 16 emergency beacon transmitters can be connected to a parent ship if it has built-in GPS, or up to 36 if they are without GPS.

The example below shows correct and incorrect programming /labelling regarding MMSI numbers on boats (lifeboats, MOB boats etc) connected to a parent ship within this example, Norwegian flag (MID=257)

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| HEX Code, UIN:  |             |
| Vessel name:    |             |
| MMSI/Call sign: | 257xxxxxx-y |
| Country:        |             |

  

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| HEX Code, UIN:  |             |
| Vessel name:    |             |
| MMSI/Call sign: | 98257xxxx-y |
| Country:        |             |



Here it is programmed with MMSI number for the parent ship, as well as «Beacon ID» (y) which is normally «0» for Float Free, «1» for Manual EPIRB, and subsequent numbers for «crafts associated with parent ship».

(257 is MID for Norway and xxxxxx is the last 6 digits of the boat's MMSI number)



Here it is programmed with assigned MMSI number for «crafts associated with parent ship», as well as «Beacon ID» (y) as described above.

(257 is MID for Norway and xxxx is part of number assigned by flag state administration to this boat)

**BUT THIS IS NOT CORRECT PROGRAMMING / LABELLING OF EPIRB**, see correct method in previous paragraph