

TECHNICAL BULLETIN TB06-2011

TRON40s / TRON 40s mkII bracket FB-4/FBH-4 “ Expiry date”

On the bottom of the FB-4/FBH-4 bracket it is a label with serial number, version and expiry date of the bracket:



According to EPIRB regulation, there is no requirement to exchange brackets. But when we introduced FB-4 bracket for Tron 40s, we were not sure if the plastic would withstand the environment conditions during more than 8 years. That's why we initially set 8 year of bracket expiry. (Or actually our recommendation to do so). When we changed battery

exchange periods from 4 to 5 years, we did a thorough examination of brackets in service for more than 8 years, and found that we could extend the exchange periods to 10 years.

But this is only a recommendation, and I guess it will depend on which conditions it is used if it needs to be exchanged or not. The GMDSS requirement for bracket exchange is to follow [MSC/Circ. 1040](#):

3 The examination of the installed 406 MHz satellite EPIRB should include:

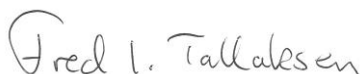
.3 carrying out visual inspection for defects

If there are any of the below mentioned defects, the bracket shall be exchanged:

- Plastic breakage
- Spring breakage
- Magnet in bracket does not inhibit TEST in bracket anymore
- Problems to mount new HRU (Hydrostatic release) caused by nut in bracket are filled with paint or corrosion

There exist spare parts like “Release kit” if rope to the “Pull” badge are broken

Jotron AS
Fred Ivar Tallaksen



Technical Support, Maritime
4th February 2011