

NATIONAL BOATING SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL

**November 11, 2012
Watsonville, CA**

Resolution Number 2012-90-01

Emergency Locator Beacons

WHEREAS, Section 618 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 redefined “associated equipment to include emergency locator beacons for recreational vessels operating more than 3 nautical miles from shore”, which provided the USCG with the authority under 46 USC 43 to require the carriage of emergency locator beacons; AND

WHEREAS, The United States Coast Guard requested the advice of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council on this new authority; AND

WHEREAS, The National Boating Safety Advisory Council assigned this task to its Boats and Associated Equipment subcommittee; AND

WHEREAS, The National Boating Safety Advisory Council’s Boats and Associated Equipment Subcommittee consulted with national experts, interested parties and search and rescue authorities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Boating Safety Advisory Council, meeting in regular session in Watsonville, California, on November 11, 2012, recommends that the U. S. Coast Guard require effective 7/1/2015, all US recreational vessels operating offshore at a distance to be determined from the coastline of the United States by the U.S. Coast Guard, carry a properly registered emergency locator beacon. The requirement to carry an emergency locator beacon is waived for US recreational vessels operating between 3 to 20 nautical miles off the coast of the continental United States, Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the shoreline of the Great Lakes provided the vessel carries a VHF-DSC Marine radiotelephone (fixed mount or handheld) with connected or integral GPS positioning capability and a programmed Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number.

For the purposes of this resolution, the definition of an emergency locator beacon shall be “a radio beacon that can be used for emergency locating purposes for a recreational boater. The term includes a Coast Guard approved Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB), Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), or other device accepted by the Coast Guard for this purpose.”

Note: This definition would apply to vessels operating beyond three nautical miles from the baselines from which the territorial sea of the United States is measured or beyond three nautical miles in United States waters from the coastline of any of the Great Lakes.

James P. Muldoon, Chairman
National Boating Safety Advisory Council