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| **U.S. Radiocommunications Sector**  **Fact Sheet** | |
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| **Reference:**  Document 5B/315 Annex 4.2 | **Date:** 29 August 2025 |
| **Document Title:** Preliminary Draft Revision of Recommendation ITU-R M.585-9, Assignment and use of identities in the maritime mobile service | |
| **Author(s)/Contributors(s):**  Pamela Murray  USCG  Jerry Ulcek  USCG  Johnny Schultz  Sev1tech Inc  Ross Norsworthy  REC Inc | Phone: (202) 657-3081  Email: pamela.j.murray@uscg.mil  Phone: (202) 579-5924  Email: jerry.l.ulcek@[uscg](http://jerry.l.ulcek@uscg.mil).mil  Phone: (727) 403-4029  Email: [johnnyschultz@sev1tech.com](http://johnnyschultz@sev1tech.com)  Phone: (727) 515-8025  Email: ross\_norsworthy@[msn](http://ross_norsworthy@msn.com).com |
| **Purpose/Objective:** This document addresses recent events at Cospas-Sarsat and the system updates that have been made. Some of the proposed changes to Recommendation ITU-R M.585 are no longer required and should be removed. | |
| **Abstract:** Cospas-Sarsat made ITU aware of an issue with the coding of AIS Beacons. They had also proposed some clarifying revisions to Recommendation ITU-R M.585 to avoid the problem. Cospas-Sarsat has completed its software updates to address this problem. Consequently, some of the revisions to this recommendation are no longer required. This proposal removes the unnecessary text. | |

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| **Radiocommunication Study Groups** |  |
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| United States of America | |
| PRELIMINARY DRAFT  REVISION OF RECOMMENDATION ITU-R M.585-9  **Assignment and use of identities in the maritime mobile service** | |
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# **1 Introduction**

Cospas-Sarsat informed the ITU of an issue with the coding of AIS Beacons, which causes their system to fail to recognize some distress calls. They had also proposed some clarifying revisions to Recommendation ITU-R M.585 to avoid the problem. Cospas-Sarsat has now completed their software updates to address this problem. With the software updates now available some of the revisions to this recommendation are no longer required.

**2 Summary of changes**

Remove unnecessary text and footnote in paragraph 2 from Annex 1 section 5.

The proposed changes are highlighted in blue.

**3 Attachment**

The following attachment contains the proposed changes to Recommendation ITU-R M.585-9.

**ATTACHMENT**

PRELIMINARY DRAFT   
REVISION OF RECOMMENDATION ITU-R M.585-9[[1]](#footnote-1)\*

Assignment and use of identities in the maritime mobile service

(1982-1986-1990-2003-2007-2009-2012-2015-2019-2022)

(There are no changes before Annex 1, Section 5)

**Section 5  
  
Assignment of identification to craft associated with a parent ship**

1 Craft associated with a parent ship, need unique identification. These craft which participate in the maritime mobile service should be assigned a 9-digit unique number in the format 9182M3I4D5X6X7X8X9 where the digits 3, 4 and 5 represent the MID and X is any figure from 0 to 9. The MID represents the administration having jurisdiction over the identity for the craft associated with a parent ship.

2 This numbering format is only valid for devices on board craft associated with a parent ship~~, except the first-generation emergency position-indicating radio beacon (EPIRB)[[2]](#footnote-2)~~. A craft may carry multiple devices which would be identified by the MMSI assigned to the craft. These devices may be located in lifeboats, life-rafts, rescue-boats or other craft belonging to a parent ship but separate from search and rescue transmitters AIS-SART.

1. \* This Recommendation should be brought to the attention of International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), International Civil Aviation Organization, International Hydrographic Organization, International Maritime Organization and Committee International Radio Maritime. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ~~a) The first-generation beacon and the second-generation beacon are defined in the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.633;~~

   ~~b) When the first-generation beacon on board craft associated with a parent ship is coded using MMSI, the MMSI of the parent ship should be used (the coding rules are detailed in the Cospas-Sarsat C/S T.001 specification);~~

   ~~c) When coding the second-generation beacon on board craft associated with a parent ship using MMSI, the MMSI of the craft specified in this recommendation should be used.~~ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)