



## Manufacturer's Bulletin

Recent reports and magazine articles regarding the GPS performance of two McMurdo products have apparently created some consumer confusion and concern. We are now contacting you to clarify the situation and help answer some of the questions that may be asked by your customers. The two products referred to are:

**Precision 400 GPS EPIRB (manual & automatic release)  
FastFind Plus PLB (with GPS)**

No other McMurdo or Paine Wessex products were involved.

Firstly, both of these products meet all current US approval specifications and fully comply with the FCC and RTCM standards.

As stated in previous consumer correspondence it is our intention to carry out our own tests, witnessed by an internationally acknowledged independent witness. All beacons manufactured by McMurdo are tested for GPS lock before they leave the factory. The beacons used in these tests were re-programmed to test protocols prior to the trials, again tested and obtained GPS lock within two to three minutes. When independently tested elsewhere in the United States, Europe and Australia, the same products achieved GPS acquisition superior to that reported in these trials.

Replication of the tests on the PLB's has commenced and we can confirm that the results recorded so far outperformed those reported. At this time we also tested the latest version of software and firmware available and showed a marked improvement in speed of GPS acquisition. Testing of the EPIRB's is due to take place during week commencing June 28<sup>th</sup>, where we shall also test the software and firmware enhancements. A full report of this testing will be available upon completion of the testing and collation of the data.

However McMurdo understands that consumers may be concerned with the implications of the reported test results and our primary objective is to reassure them that our commitment to their safety remains paramount.

As a responsible and reputable manufacturer we take extremely seriously any concern customers may have regarding our products. As a result, we are offering consumers the opportunity to return their beacon to our US service center for a free full diagnostic test and software and firmware upgrade.

We have already commenced the upgrade program for the FastFind Plus PLB. The upgrade program for EPIRB's will follow upon completion of the testing and receipt of the results and subsequently we are aiming to commence the Precision upgrade program by the end of July or early in August.

We also confirm that all new orders shipped from Revere Supply will be the new enhanced product. Revere Supply in Jacksonville will be contacting you directly regarding exchanging any inventory you currently have in stock for the new enhanced beacons.

If you have any questions please call Revere Supply on their toll free number 1-877 REVERE-8 (738 3738).



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June 30, 2004

Please find a Manufacturer's Bulletin from McMurdo Pains Wessex regarding GPS EPIRBs (Precision) and GPS PLBs (FastFind Plus) rescue beacons following this cover letter.

Some additional details:

- Shipments of upgraded and enhanced PLBs to wholesale customers are anticipated to begin the week of July 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Exchange units for **new** (not previously sold to retail customers, in original boxes, etc) that are being returned for exchange to Revere Supply in Jacksonville, FL will be the first units shipped from our warehouse. If necessary for your system, PLEASE ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER WHEN REQUESTING AN EXCHANGE AUTHORIZATION
- Please call, fax or email Revere Supply (Sales@RevereSupply.com) for your Exchange Authorization Number (E.A.N.) and additional instructions
- Any previously sold/previously registered to-end-user units are to be sent directly to McMurdo for upgrade at: **McMurdo Service Center 1030 Sundown Drive NW Arab, AL 35016**. You or your consumer customer may also request a prepaid mailer packet by calling McMurdo toll free at (800) 783-0889.
- We feel we will have an ample initial inventory of FastFind Plus PLBs from the McMurdo factory upgrade center to accommodate the exchanges and some of the anticipated new orders. SHIPMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL UPGRADED PLBs WILL BE ALLOCATED IN THE ORDER THAT THOSE ORDERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED