

**Agenda Item 5.7**

**CODING WITH SHORT FORMAT LOCATION PROTOCOL**

**1. ACTION REQUIRED:**

India, in response to action item on India (JC-19/AI.8), invites the Joint Committee to note the following with regard to use of short format location protocol:

- a) anomalies relating to beacon coding and external GPS interface due to supply of uncertified external GPS interface and use of unauthorised coding protocol;
- b) request consider continuation of processing of short format location protocol in the System until end of 2006.

**2. BACKGROUND:**

Some of the Indian users in the year 1999-2000 procured ELTs (503-1 series from M/S. Techtest, CSTAC: 097) with commitment from the vendor that the external GPS location will be interfaced through a special interface. The beacons with the interface were supplied in the 2000 by coding with short format location protocol. At that time, it was also informed that external GPS interface and coding with location protocol was approved by the Cospas-Sarsat. The interface tests have been going-on for quite sometime with no success, i.e. external GPS input to the ELT is not working. Only recently, we were provided with the Cospas-Sarsat approval certificate for use of external GPS and authorizing coding with location protocol (for 503-1 ELT series from M/S. Techtest, C/S TAC: 097). The approval was given by the Cospas-Sarsat on 13 February 2006, whereas the units were supplied in the year 1999-2000. There are about 150 ELTs which are coded with short format location protocol. We are waiting to resolve external GPS interface problems with the help of manufacturer; once this is resolved all the ELTs will be recoded with long format location protocol. It is expected that this will be completed by the end of 2006. If interface problems are not resolved, all the units will be recoded with user protocol.

In August 2005, all users were informed about recoding the beacons and same was communicated to Techtest also. The matter has been taken up by the users and ground trials have begun to set right the GPS interface issues.

**3. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that:

- a) Cospas-Sarsat secretariat takes note of such anomalies (supply of unqualified beacons & interfaces, and coding with unauthorized protocols) and take-up these issues with the

concerned manufacturers with strict warnings to avoid such problems in future. If the commitments are not met, the Cospas-Sarsat certification may be withdrawn; and

- b) processing of short format location protocol in the system may be allowed until the end of 2006 in order to resolve interface and coding related issues with the support of beacon manufacturer.

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