



Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services

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Capt. John Fuechsel, USCG (ret.)
Director, GMDSS Task Force
1600 N. Oak Street, #427
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Dear Jack:

This is in response to your letter of 8 February 2013 on behalf of the GMDSS Task Force, recommending that the RTCM standard for Personal Locator Beacons (PLB) be revised to include a requirement for GNSS positioning capability in all PLBs.

The recommendation was considered by RTCM Special Committee 110 at its regular meeting last week. I am pleased to report that the committee agreed with the recommendation, and noted that all known PLBs currently marketed in the U.S. are location protocol beacons (i.e. equipped with GPS positioning capability). The revision will be packaged into a new PLB standard amendment with some other needed changes.

Sincerely,

R.L. Markle
President