



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA
AND INFORMATION SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

July 23, 2020

To: Mr. Joseph Stich
Manger, Commercial Crew Program

Thru: NASA Commercial Crew Program
Johnson Space Center
Houston, TX 77058

From: Mark W. Turner
SARSAT Program Manager
NSOF, E/SPO53
Suitland, MD 20746

Subject: Reply to letter dated 21 July 2020.

We fully recognize and commend the efforts the NASA CCP and SpaceX teams have taken to address the non-conformance of this beacon system. This includes the extensive risk assessment with mitigations to maximize the safety of the SAR responders, and the development of a crew rescue con-ops utilization plan and documented procedures.

We understand any activation of this beacon would be in response to a distress situation. As you indicated in your letter, however, the beacon in question does not meet the current Cospas-Sarsat Type Approval Standard. In keeping with the Cospas-Sarsat Data Distribution Plan A.001, should the Crew 1 mission need to activate this beacon, all valid alerts received from this beacon, as with any distress beacon, will be automatically distributed to appropriate search and rescue authorities. We also confirm that the additional data distribution requested, as specified in the SARSAT System Use Agreement with SpaceX, will be acknowledged and processed.

We suggest you notify the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for national-level spectrum-based transmittance approval, since the SARSAT program does not coordinate with these stakeholders in the case of non-type approved beacons.

Going forward the SARSAT program fully understands future SpaceX missions, as well as any commercial crew program under NASA's purview, will pursue proper Type Approval testing of a redesigned beacon in a certified SARSAT facility. This includes submission of a full Type Approval Package to the Cospas-Sarsat programme for proper consideration prior to any capsule integration.

Please direct any further questions or concerns to our POC for this matter, Mr. Allan Knox, Program and Policy Analyst, allan.knox@noaa.gov.

