

SAFETY ALERT

- TECHNICAL No. 51

PORTABLE RADIO SAFETY EQUIPMENT **FITMENT OF INAPPROPRIATE OR COUNTERFEIT** **BATTERIES**

There have been incidents where an inappropriate or counterfeit battery has been fitted into portable radio safety equipment. Eg EPIRB, PLB, Portable VHF, AIS-SART and SART. Equipment certification is conducted with batteries meeting the manufacturer's specification. Batteries which do not meet this specification may cause problems such as shorter operating time, faults or damage.

For many safety products the battery should only be replaced by an approved service centre. Where it is a job for an owner then the manufacturer's instructions should be followed accurately.

When obtaining replacement batteries the buyer should ensure that the parts fully comply with the required specification. If necessary, consult with the manufacturer or an approved service centre. Counterfeit products also pose a risk and both the source, description, and product markings and anti-counterfeit measures should be considered.