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Survival Electronics Packed in Life Raft Advisory 5 February 2009

The 406 MHz EPIRBs, PLBs, SARTs and Survival Radios (Survival Electronics) manufactured by ACR Electronics Inc. are designed to withstand significant shock, vibration and environmental exposure. It is a well established practice to pack Survival Electronics inside life rafts. However, Survival Electronics can be damaged when packed within a life raft unless consideration has been given to protection of the Survival Electronics during the packing process and in service. In some cases, the pressure or vacuum used to reduce the volume of the packed life raft can crush or damage the Survival Electronics housing or antenna, compromising the device's water tight integrity and damaging internal circuits which would render the Survival Electronics inoperable. Damage can also occur in service during normal shipping and handling. The sharp edges of a crushed housing or the chemicals in breached lithium batteries may also damage the life raft, causing it to fail in use.

ACR Electronics, Inc. recommends that any manufacturer or service center that intends to pack Survival Electronics in a life raft should adhere to industry best practices which should include a trial life raft packed with the Survival Equipment in question, the packed life raft tested as is appropriate or required by regulation, including appropriate drop tests, and then the life raft inflated and inspected to verify that neither the Survival Electronics nor the life raft have been damaged. It is critical for life raft manufacturers to ensure their packing procedures are fully tested in all pack configurations and using all approved packing methods to minimize the potential for damage to Survival Electronics and the life raft. Non-functional dummy models of all ACR Survival Electronics are available for use in such trials and tests.

ACR Electronics Inc. has a long tradition of standing behind its products and will warranty any ACR brand survival equipment that experiences a defect in workmanship or materials, whether it is packed in a life raft or not. However, damage to Survival Electronics packed inside a life raft caused by improper or inadequate care in packing of the life raft will not normally be covered under the ACR warranty. Appropriate testing prior to production packing should preclude such damage. Contact your ACR sales representative or ACR Customer Service at +1-954-862-2110 or CMack@ACRelectronics.com for consultation to address specific life raft related packaging questions.

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