



User Manual



**PLB1**

**Personal Locator  
Beacon**

English

[www.oceansignal.com](http://www.oceansignal.com)



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## **OWNER DETAILS**

Name

Organisation

## **CONTACT**

Tel.

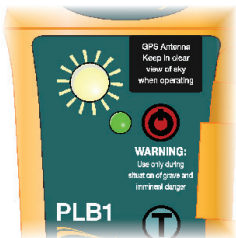
Email

## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY



### USE ONLY IN CASE OF GRAVE OR IMMINENT DANGER

- PULL THE ANTENNA OUT FROM THE BODY TO ITS FULL EXTENT USING THE BLACK TAB
- LIFT THE FLAP UP
- PRESS THE ON KEY FOR ONE SECOND TO ACTIVATE THE BEACON. THE GREEN LED WILL FLASH TO INDICATE ACTIVATION
- RELEASE THE ON KEY
- ENSURE THE ANTENNA IS HELD VERTICALLY WHILE OPERATING THE PLB
- THE STROBE LIGHT WILL START FLASHING TO INDICATE IT IS ACTIVATED



**NOTE:** Refer to section 3.2 for deactivation instructions.









<b>1. GENERAL</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 Exposure to Electromagnetic Energy	5
1.2 Warnings	5
1.3 COSPAS/SARSAT System	5
<b>2. PLB1 OVERVIEW</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3. OPERATION</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1 Activation	7
3.2 Deactivation	8
3.3 False Alerts	8
<b>4. TESTING</b>	<b>9</b>
4.1 Beacon Test	9
4.2 GPS Test	10
4.3 Special note for Commercial and DoD Users	10
<b>5. APPENDIX</b>	<b>11</b>
5.1 Maintenance	11
5.2 Battery	11
5.3 Transport	11
5.4 Disposal	11
5.5 Specifications	12
5.6 Approvals	13
5.7 Registration	13
<b>6. WARRANTY</b>	<b>14</b>
6.1 Global Limited Warranty	14
6.2 Extended Limited Warranty	14
<b>7. BEACON REGISTRATION DETAILS</b>	<b>15</b>

## 1. GENERAL

### 1.1 Exposure to Electromagnetic Energy

This product complies with EN50371 (EU) and RSS-102 (Canada).

### 1.2 Warnings

-  It is a legal requirement to register your PLB with your National Authority.
-  Only use your PLB1 in a situation of grave and imminent danger. Deliberately misusing your PLB1 or accidental activation may result in prosecution and a fine.
-  Your PLB1 contains lithium batteries. Please see section 5 for information on safe transportation.
-  The battery in your PLB1 should be replaced immediately if it has been activated, or if the test indicator shows the battery as "used", or if the expiry date marked on the unit has been exceeded.
-  THE PLB1 WILL NOT FLOAT, unless fitted with a flotation pouch.
-  The PLB1 is not designed to be operated floating in water. Hold above the water when activated.
-  Read these instructions carefully. Failure to follow the guidance in this manual may result in incorrect operation and loss of warranty.
-  Always refer to the manufacturer for specific instructions before installing this product directly to your life jacket or other personal flotation device.

### 1.3 COSPAS/SARSAT System

The COSPAS/SARSAT system uses two satellite arrays to provide distress alert and location data to search and rescue authorities. The GEOSAR system can provide near immediate alerting within the coverage of the receiving satellite. The LEOSAR system provides coverage of the polar region beyond the range of the GEOSAR system.

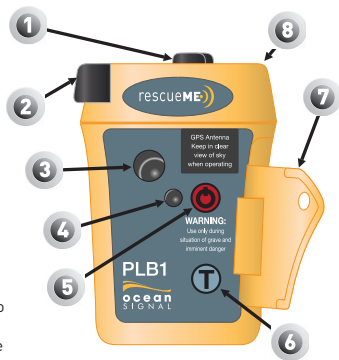
Ground receiving stations, referred to as Local Users Terminals (LUTs) receive and process the satellite downlink signal to generate the distress alerts, which are then received by Mission Control Centres (MCCs) which then forward the alert to Rescue Co-ordination Centres (RCCs), Search and Rescue Points of Contacts (SPOCs) and other MCCs.



GEOSAR – Geostationary Earth Orbit  
LEOSAR – Low-altitude Earth Orbit

## 2. PLB1 OVERVIEW

- Antenna rewind knob
- Antenna pull grip
- Strobe light
- Indicator LED
- ON key (under flap)
- Test key (under flap)
- Lift up flap
- Lanyard fixing (on rear of case)



The unique cradle mounting system allows the PLB to be easily attached to a belt, clothing or other protective equipment. Simply fit the rubber strap around the mounting point and attach to the cradle as shown.

The cradle securely clips to the PLB at the four fixing points.

The PLB can also be carried in the supplied (Australia and New Zealand units only) flotation pouch. Secure the pouch to your clothing using the belt loop on the rear of the pouch.



For non AUS/NZ customers the Flotation pouch is available as an accessory with part number 731S-04078.


- ⚠ **When attaching the PLB1 to a life jacket or other personal flotation device ALWAYS refer to the manufacturer's instructions for correct installation.**
- ⚠ **Secure PLB1 using lanyard attachment**
- ⚠ **Once affixed using the cradle or pouch, the PLB should be securely tethered to your person or clothing using the supplied lanyard. This will guard against accidental loss if the PLB is unknowingly removed from its housing.**
- ⚠ **Following registration (see section 5.7) the PLB is supplied with a clear label to protect the UIN information on the rear of the product. Fit this before use.**

### 3. OPERATION

#### WARNING: USE ONLY IN SITUATIONS OF GRAVE AND IMMINENT DANGER MISUSE MAY RESULT IN A SEVERE PENALTY

Ensure that your PLB1 is always fitted with an unused battery that is within the marked expiry date. Failure to do so may result in reduced operation time when used in a real emergency. Please observe the recommendations on testing in section 4.

#### 3.1 Activation

- Only activate your PLB in situations requiring emergency assistance from the rescue authorities. Deliberate misuse of your PLB may result in a fine.
- To activate your PLB in an emergency, pull the black antenna tab out completely.
- Lift the protective flap and press the  key for one second until the LED flashes green, then release the key. Do not force the flap through more than 180°, otherwise the hinge may break.
- During operation the green LED will flash green once every five seconds while the GPS is obtaining a fix. Once a fix is obtained, the LED will flash green quickly three times
- Each time a 406MHz transmission is made the LED will flash quickly five times; green for transmission with a GPS position and red for a transmission without a position.
- The LED will flash red every 2.5 seconds while the 121.5MHz homing beacon is active.
- When operating the PLB1 over water, tether the beacon to your body or the life raft. Keep the PLB1 clear of water when operating. When operating on land, place the PLB1 flat on the ground if possible.
- Keep your PLB1 laying flat with the antenna standing vertically. Keep the area marked "GPS Antenna" free from obstruction, which can interfere with the GPS reception.


#### NOTE:


The PLB1 does not transmit an alert until approximately 50 seconds has elapsed. This allows time to deactivate the unit if accidentally turned on.

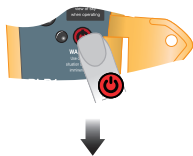


### 3.2 Deactivation

To deactivate your PLB1 after use, or if it is accidentally activated,

press the  key for one second until the indicator LED flashes red twice, then release. Rewind the antenna by turning the knob on the top of the PLB clockwise.

 **Do not push the antenna back into the PLB1 as this may cause it to be damaged.**



### 3.3 False Alerts

False alerts cause the rescue authorities unnecessary time and expense. To avoid false alerts make sure your PLB1 is safely stowed with the protective cover closed and the antenna fully wound in. Make sure that there is no excessive pressure applied to the protective cover. Ensure that anyone carrying the PLB1 is fully aware that this device is for emergencies and should only be used in situations of grave and imminent danger.



If you accidentally activate your beacon or otherwise set it off when a rescue is not required, contact your local emergency services as soon as possible and advise them of your beacon's 15 digit HEX code (UIN), your current location and the time the beacon was first activated.

The UIN is printed on the label on the rear of the PLB1.

**For USA phone: 1-800-851-3051 (USAF Rescue Coordination Center)**

**For UK phone: +44 (0) 1326 317575 (UKCG)**





## 4. TESTING

- NOTE:** Allow at least 30 seconds between each test and/or activation.  
After all indicators have ceased flashing, the unit may still remain active for a short period of time.

Routine testing of your PLB1 is recommended to ensure it is in good working order when needed. Follow the guidance notes below on the frequency that tests should be carried out. Remember that each test will reduce the battery capacity slightly and reduce the operation time of your PLB1 during an emergency.




### 4.1 Beacon Test

-  Pull the antenna out fully before commencing the test.  
Retract the antenna after the test.

- NOTE:** To test your PLB1 is functioning correctly, press and hold the  key. The LED will illuminate red to indicate the switch is depressed, followed by the LED flashing red rapidly. The key may now be released. After a delay, the strobe light will flash once and the indicator LED will flash to show the pass or fail status.  
**Note:** This status indication is repeated a second time after a short delay.

The number of green/amber flashes in each group indicates the battery status as shown in the table below.

Green /Amber Indicator		Red Indicator
<i>Changes to Amber after 1 hour of use</i>		
No of Flashes	No of Hours Use	Type of Failure
1 Flash	0 to 1hr 59min	121.5MHz homer
2 Flashes	2hrs to 3hrs 59min	406MHz generation
3 Flashes	4hrs to 5hrs 59min	406MHz power amp
4 Flashes	6hrs to 7hrs 59min	Replace battery
5 Flashes	8hrs to 9hrs 59min	Other failure
6 Flashes	10hrs +	

-  Because the test transmits a short burst on the aircraft distress frequency of 121.5MHz, please only carry out this test in the first five minutes of each hour.
-  It is recommended to test your PLB1 once a month.
-  The amber test result is an electronic witness that indicates the battery has been used for over one hour or the allowed number of tests has been exceeded. The PLB1 will still operate normally in distress, but the battery should be replaced to ensure the full operating life when your PLB1 is needed.

## 4.2 GPS Test

- ! As testing the GPS Receiver expends significant amounts of battery energy do not test the GPS operation more than once year. Testing the GPS receiver is limited to 10 tests over the lifetime of the battery, after this the GPS test will fail to activate.
- ! This test must only be performed where the PLB has a clear and unobstructed view of the sky. This is required to allow the GPS receiver to acquire a signal from sufficient satellites to allow it to determine a position. Make sure the area marked "GPS Antenna" is not obstructed.

Press and hold the **T** key. The LED will illuminate red to indicate the key has been pressed, then start flashing. Shortly after, the LED will cease flashing and become a steady red light. The key can now be released.

During the GPS test the LED will repeat a long red flash followed by a short green flash until either a position fix is obtained or the GPS test fails. A successful test will be indicated by the strobe flashing and the LED flashing green. The number of green flashes indicates one more than the number of GPS tests remaining (eg. 8 flashes = 7 tests remaining). A failure is indicated by the LED flashing red. The

test can be ended by holding the **T** key for five seconds.

## 4.3 Special note for Commercial and DoD Users

Should it not be possible to maintain the suggested test schedules, the interval for the two tests detailed above is:

Recommended:

Section 4.1 Beacon Test: 6 monthly

Required:

Section 4.1 Beacon Test: Annually

Section 4.2 GPS Test: Annually

## 5. APPENDIX

### 5.1 Maintenance

Your PLB1 requires little maintenance except periodic cleaning, if required. Always use a damp cloth to clean the case and dry thoroughly. Do not use solvents or other cleaning fluids as this may cause the plastics to deteriorate. Ensure the antenna is free to unwind.

### 5.2 Battery

The PLB1 contains Lithium batteries for long operating life. Your battery must be replaced after the expiry date or after the PLB1 has been activated, even if only for a short period of time.



**Battery replacement must be done at an Ocean Signal authorised battery replacement centre.**

### 5.3 Transport

When shipping your PLB1 the following guidance and regulations should be followed, but you are advised to contact your nearest battery replacement centre or Ocean Signal prior to shipping as regulations may have changed. The PLB1 battery contains <2g of lithium.

Always pack the PLB1 securely in a stout cardboard carton. Ocean Signal advises that you keep the original packaging in case of return for service.

For surface transport the PLB1 may be shipped 'excepted' under special provision 188.

For air transport the PLB1 should be shipped as category UN3091 and packed under IATA packing instruction 970 section II. If you are hand carrying your PLB1 on an aircraft please contact your airline for advice.

### 5.4 Disposal

Care should be taken when disposing of your PLB1 should it be no longer required. It is recommended to remove the battery from the PLB1 by removing the case lid. The case screws are covered by the top label. Dispose of the battery in accordance with local waste regulations. Please note that the PLB1 is not user serviceable and removing the lid will invalidate the warranty.

## 5.5 Specifications

### 406Mhz Transmitter

Frequency 406.037 MHz  $\pm$ 1KHz  
 Output Power  
 Modulation

5W Typical  
 Phase  $\pm$ 1.1 Radians Pk  
 (16K0G1D)

Encoding Biphasic L  
 Rate 400 bps

### 121.5MHz Transmitter

Frequency 121.5 MHz  
 Output Power  
 Modulation  
 Modulation Depth  
 Frequency Stability  
 Duty Cycle ~35%

25-100mW PEP  
 Swept Tone AM (3K20A3X)  
 ~97%  
 $\pm$ 50ppm

### Low Duty Cycle Strobe

Light Type High Intensity LED  
 Light Colour  
 Intensity 1 candela (typ)  
 Flash Rate

White  
 20-30 per minute

### Battery

Type  
 Operating >24hrs @-20°C  
 Replacement Interval

Lithium Manganese Dioxide  
 (LiMnO<sub>2</sub>)  
 7 years

### GPS Receiver

Satellite Channels  
 Sensitivity -148dBm  
 Cold Start Re-acquisition  
 GPS Antenna

66 [Acquisition]  
 -163dBm  
 Microstrip Patch

### General

Height of Body  
 Width of Body  
 Depth of Body  
 Weight 115grams

76mm  
 52mm  
 32mm

### Environmental

IEC60945 Category  
 Operating Temperature  
 Storage Temperature  
 Waterproof

Portable  
 Class 2 -20C to +55C  
 Class 2 -30C to +70C  
 15m depth

## 5.6 Approvals

### 5.6.1 European Declaration of Conformity

Hereby, Ocean Signal Ltd. declares that the radio equipment type rescueME PLB1 is in compliance with Directive 2014/53/EU.

See [http://oceansignal.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/PLB1\\_RED\\_DofC.pdf](http://oceansignal.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/PLB1_RED_DofC.pdf)



### 5.6.2 Country of Intended Use (EU requirement)

Austria	✓	Germany	✓	Netherlands	✓
Belgium	✓	Greece	✓	Poland	✓
Bulgaria	✓	Hungary	✓	Portugal	✓
Cyprus	✓	Ireland	✓	Romania	✓
Czech Republic	✓	Italy	✓	Slovakia	✓
Denmark	✓	Latvia	✓	Slovenia	✓
Estonia	✓	Lithuania	✓	Spain	✓
Finland	✓	Luxembourg	✓	Sweden	✓
France	✓	Malta	✓	United Kingdom	✓

### 5.6.3 Industry Canada Approval

This device complies with Industry Canada licence-exempt RSS standard(s). Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference, including interference that may cause undesired operation of the device.

## 5.7 Registration

To register your beacon, contact you national registration authority via post, email or online. Provide your 15 digit HEX ID (UIN), 5 digit checksum if required, your contact details and emergency contact information. Some countries also require additional information such as boat type and identification or alternative emergency contacts.

**For UK registrations go to:**  
**For USA registrations go to:**

**[www.gov.uk/406beacon](http://www.gov.uk/406beacon)**  
**[www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov/](http://www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov/)**

## 6. WARRANTY

### 6.1 Global Limited Warranty

The limited warranties in the global limited warranty are exclusive and in lieu of all other warranties express or implied or statutory, including any liability arising under any warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, statutory or otherwise. This warranty gives the owner specific legal rights, which may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

In no event shall Ocean Signal Ltd. or its affiliates be liable for any incidental, special, indirect or consequential damages, whether resulting from the use, misuse, inability to use, improper reliance on, or from any defects in the product. Some jurisdictions do not allow the exclusion on incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation may not apply to you.

The Global Limited Warranty does not affect a customer's rights against a retailer arising from a sales/purchase contract.

Product repaired or replaced under warranty will be warranted only for the remaining balance of the applicable original warranty period.

Subject to the terms, conditions, limitations and exclusions in the Global Limited Warranty, all Ocean Signal Products are warranted to be free from defects in material or workmanship for a period of two (2) years from the date the Product was purchased by the Original Customer (the "Standard Limited Warranty Period"). During this period and for the Original Customer only, Ocean Signal will, at its sole discretion, repair or replace any components that fail in normal use, which, in the absence of any applicable law to the contrary, shall be the customer's sole and exclusive remedy for any breach of warranty.

If the Standard Limited Warranty applies to you, Ocean Signal will not charge you for parts or labour for warranty repairs or replacements. However, the cost of transporting your warranted Product to Ocean Signal for repair or replacement is your responsibility and is not covered by Ocean Signal.

### 6.2 Extended Limited Warranty

Subject to the terms, conditions, limitations and exclusions in the Global Limited Warranty, and excluding Warranty Replacement Product and Products used for regular commercial, military, law enforcement or related purposes, all new Products enrolled with Ocean Signal within ninety (90) days from the date the product was first purchased by the Original Customer are warranted to be free from defects in material or workmanship for a period of 5 years.

During this period and for the Original Customer, Ocean Signal will, at its sole option, repair or replace any product components that fail in normal use, which, in the absence of any applicable law to the contrary, shall be the customer's sole and exclusive remedy for any breach of warranty.

Upon successful enrolment of the Product, the Extended Limited Warranty replaces Standard Limited Warranty.

Extend your warranty here: [www.oceansignal.com/warranty](http://www.oceansignal.com/warranty)

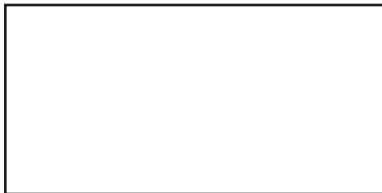


If the Extended Limited Warranty applies to you, Ocean Signal will not charge you for parts or labour for warranty repairs or replacements. However, the cost of transporting your warranted Product to Ocean Signal for repair or replacement is your responsibility and is not covered by Ocean Signal.

For further assistance please contact our Technical Service Department.

Email: [service@oceansignal.com](mailto:service@oceansignal.com)

## 7. BEACON REGISTRATION DETAILS



ATTACH YOUR REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS HERE FOR SAFE KEEPING

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