

Technology comparison

Feature	AIS - SART	Homing 121 MHz	EPIRB 406MHz w/o GPS	EPIRB 406MHz with GPS	Comment
Usage	Worldwide	Not anymore used by US Authorities	Worldwide	Worldwide	
Frequency where used	161,975MHz and 162,025MHz	121MHz	406MHz	406MHz	
GPS inside	Yes	No	No	Yes	Only with GPS position is exactly enough for real rescue
Position accuracy	3m – 15m	300 m	1nm – 4nm, what can take up to 4 h	3m-15m	
Signal received by	All AIS receivers and transceivers	Only dedicated receivers	Satellite	Satellite	Satellite slot availability is a problem
Waiting time until signal can be received	No waiting time	No waiting time	Up to 30 min for free Satellite slot	Up to 30 min for free Satellite slot	Waiting for satellite slot is time critical for rescue
Signal content	Position, SOG, COG, unique ident number	Rough direction, strength of signal	Ident number of unit	Pos, COG, SOG, Ident number of unit	Only direction or ident number is poor information
Telegram refresh (POS, SOG, COG)	Every minute, 8 telegrams for redundancy	continuous	Every 20 min	Every 20 min	Telegram refresh every 20 min is bad because of drifting position of victim
Company opinion	Best technical and practical solution available	Old technology from former times	Without GPS almost useless	Acceptable, but update rate and rescue possibilities limited	

Important note: Above is subjective view and no claim for completeness and/or failure free accuracy of contained data