



# Memo

Date: 3/25/2013  
To: FAA  
Cc: AOPA  
From: Tom Bowers, Group Manager, PPE  
Subject: Prohibition of 121.5MhZ ELT's

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I am opposed to the cessation and prohibition of the use of the 121.5MhZ ELT's. My Aviation assets are in compliance and I believe the Government has an obligation to support the system they mandated and created in the first place. In addition, I do not support the proposed rulemaking for the following reasons:

1. The expense required to retrofit DUAL 406 & 121.5 ELT's would be prohibitive;
2. Dual 405 & 121.5 Personal Locator Beacons are currently used in emergency equipment kits, and they as well would be prohibited under your proposed rulemaking;
3. Considering point 1 & 2, in a true emergency situation, having half the frequencies available for search and rescue poses an unnecessary risk and could easily worsen a life and death situation;
4. Currently, a well-defined, experienced, and mature infrastructure exists to track 121.5 beacons within the FAA, Civil Air Patrol, US Military and various Law Enforcement Agencies. This network has evolved over decades, and cannot be replaced overnight without an extreme financial burden on the Tax Payer;
5. There is no compelling reason to burden US General Aviation with this proposed rulemaking, and indeed, it appears the only reason to end 121.5 service is to conform to some international standards, at the risk and expense of American Citizens.

Regards,

Tom Bowers

General Aviation Pilot

Selma, CA