

For immediate release

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NEW CODE OF PRACTICE FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERS HIGHLIGHTS VHF LOCATOR BEACON TECHNOLOGY AS BEST SOLUTION FOR IMMEDIATE MAN OVERBOARD ALERTING

The newly introduced Code of Practice, Man Overboard: Prevention and Response, which has been developed and issued by Western Australia's Commission for Occupational Safety and Health, for adoption by the thriving fishing industry in the region specifically highlights VHF DSC technology, which is only available in Mobilarm's unique V100 VHF Locator Beacon, as the most suitable for quickly raising the alarm should a crew member fall off a vessel.

The new Code positions Western Australia as the first Australian state or territory to introduce a man overboard code of practice for the commercial fishing industry and the personal safety focus means that the recommended measures are suitable for any fishery worldwide. The code details safety guidelines to prevent falls on commercial vessels as well as emergency responses for man overboard incidents and was developed in response to deaths arising from man overboard incidents and recommendations by the state coroner in his report on a death in 2006.

Among the measures introduced, which include improved use of personal flotation devices, the code highlights Man Overboard (MOB) alerting as vital to saving lives in the harsh professional fishing environment, where in the Western Australia fishing industry alone, there have been 44 deaths from a range of causes since 1988. The Code states:

'A procedure or system to immediately alert crew that a person has fallen overboard is an important part of a vessel's emergency system to ensure falls are quickly detected and crew only remain in the water for a short period of time. The longer a person is in the water the harder it will be to locate them, affecting their chances of survival.'

The Code goes on to recommend a solution that can raise an immediate alarm should a MOB incident occur:

'...a radio transmission man overboard system that sets off an automatic alarm when somebody goes overboard.'

"It's reassuring that the Code of Practice recognises that the speed of a MOB alert is vital to securing a fast rescue and that immediate alarms to crew are the recommended measure," comments Lindsay Lyon, CEO of the Perth, Western Australia based Mobilarm. "The V100 is the only locator beacon to offer this possibility, thanks to its unique use of VHF as the alert mechanism. Once activated the V100 immediately alerts the victims own vessel via its VHF radio and other vessels within VHF range, as opposed to alerting a shore station, which then has to alert the vessels at the scene, which takes time that the person in the water cannot spare."

The Mobilarm V100 is an innovative new locator beacon that uses automatic VHF alerts and GPS positioning to ensure fast rescue of a MOB. The pocket-sized unit is attached to clothing or

integrated with lifejackets and is automatically water-activated when the wearer has gone overboard, sending out a man overboard distress message and real time GPS coordinates of the casualty's current position via VHF DSC and in a synthesized voice on channel 16. Since the probability of survival during a MOB event is directly related to the length of time in the water, alerting the crew aboard the parent vessel and other vessels in the vicinity will bring about a quick and effective rescue, therefore increasing chances of survival.

"The V100 is already being used by crew aboard a wide variety of vessels including workboats, offshore supply vessels, pilot boats and tug boats and although the Code has been introduced for the Western Australia fishing industry, the recommendations can be seen as relevant to fisheries and all other maritime vocations around the world," continues Lyon. "We hope that fishermen can see the safety benefits of the recommendations in the Code, and that we are able to play our part in protecting those who put their lives on the line everyday when working at sea."

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Notes for editors:

Mobilarm is headquartered in Perth, Western Australia and is one of the world's leading brands in electronic marine safety equipment that protect and save lives in the marine workplace. Mobilarm delivers a range of crew monitoring alarm systems and locator beacons for use on vessels and in marine-based facilities, which generate automatic and immediate alerts in marine emergencies involving personnel, integrate with GPS and/or onboard navigation systems and provide in-water tracking of man overboard casualties in the water.

The Mobilarm V100 is the first Maritime Survivor Locating Device to use GPS and VHF radio to automatically transmit a man overboard distress alert and provide position coordinates. Mobilarm Crewsafe is the company's second generation wireless sensor networking technology which provides a new level of crew safety and security through crew location monitoring, automated alarms and crew paging.

Mobilarm has received enviable recognition for its products and design - winning two Seatrade awards for Safety, two Australian Design Awards and the Western Australia Worksafe Award.

Specific product information, customer testimonials and images are available at www.mobilarm.com/page/media_centre.html.