

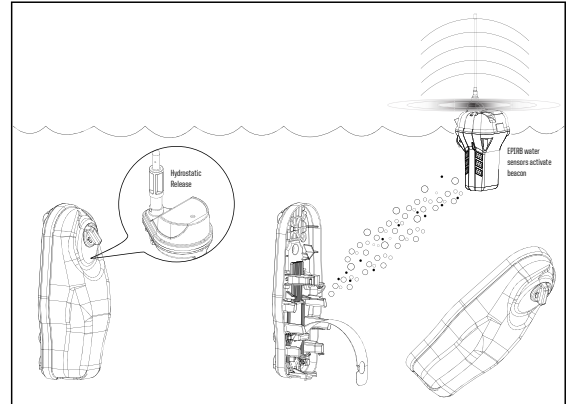
# Category I vs. Category II

## Which EPIRB bracket is right for me?

Category I EPIRB - Automatically or manually deployed

Category II EPIRB- Manually deployed

| EPIRBs have different categories which define which type of bracket the EPIRB uses | Cat. I | Cat. II |
|--|--------|---------|
| Bracket automatically deploys EPIRB  | Yes    | No      |
| Contains a Hydrostatic release unit (HRU)  | Yes    | No      |
| Built in deactivation water sensor to prevent false alarms                         | Yes    | Yes     |
| Manual activation of beacon while in bracket                                       | Yes    | Yes     |
| Protects EPIRB from UV exposure  | Yes    | No      |



Category I Automatic Deployment



Category I Bracket

The Category I bracket is designed to release an EPIRB when the Hydrostatic Release Unit (HRU) in the bracket is submerged in water to a depth of 4 to 14 feet (1.5-4m). The regulation specifies a range of depth for deployment to allow for different water temperatures which will affect the release depth. The Hydrostatic Release Unit needs to be replaced every two years.

In an emergency, the EPIRB will release from its bracket, float to the surface and alert search and rescue that you need help fast.



Category II Bracket

EPIRBs in a Category II bracket need to be manually deployed and activated. They can be mounted above or below deck, in a location that is protected from outside influences (i.e. green water, traffic impacts, cabin doors, etc). Some people prefer to keep their beacon in a RapidDitch™ Abandon Ship Bag without the bracket which is OK if the bag is going to be in a dry spot on the boat.

