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Standard Specification for An Avalanche Beacon Frequency¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification establishes a National Avalanche Beacon Frequency.

2. Terminology

2.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

2.1.1 *avalanche beacon*—an electronic device for radio location of persons buried or trapped, usually by snow, and employing radio frequency electromagnetic induction.

3. Requirements

3.1 *Standard Frequency*—The avalanche beacon shall operate on a frequency of 457.0 kHz.

3.2 *Additional Interim Frequency*—The avalanche beacon may also operate on a frequency of 2.275 kHz.

3.3 *Frequency Priorities*—The standard frequency (457.0

kHz) is mandatory in all devices. Use of the interim frequency (2.275 kHz) shall not impair or disable effective operation with the standard frequency.

3.4 *Transition to Standard Frequency*—Both frequencies should be employed during the interim period. Incorporation of the interim frequency is intended to provide temporary backward interoperability with older beacons, until such devices can be replaced or retired. Beacons incorporating both frequencies should be employed until December 31, 1995. After this date, only single frequency (457.0 kHz) beacons should be employed and the use of 2.275 (kHz) should be discontinued.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Avalanche beacons are used for the location of persons who are buried by avalanches. In operation, users wear the beacons, which are all set to transmit. After an incident, the rescuers switch their units to receive and search for the subject, whose units are still in transmit.

5. Keywords

5.1 avalanche; beacon; frequency; snow; transceiver

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