

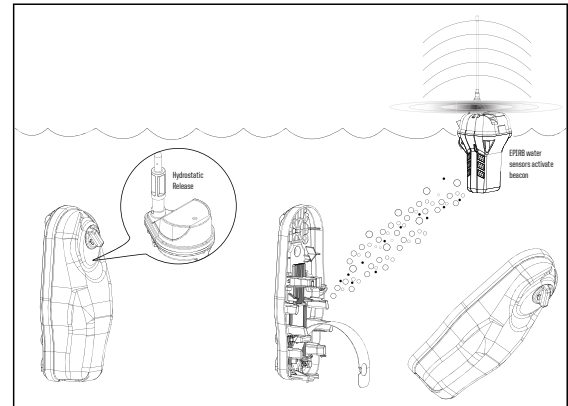
# Category I vs. Category II

## 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.

