

1.1. Radio requirement and permit

All expeditions are required to bring as a minimum a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), a portable marine VHF radio and a satellite phone.

In case the expedition team is planning to split its members up in smaller groups during the expedition this must be planned in advance, since each sub-group is required to have their own PLBs, VHF's and satellite phones. Basically, if the plan is to split up an expedition team to two smaller groups (even if only for a couple of hours), the expedition members are required to bring two PLBs, two VHF radios and two satellite phones.

Carrying PLBs and radio equipment in Greenland requires a radio permit (see below for equipment requirements and how to get the appropriate permit).

1.1.1. Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) requirements

Projects and expeditions taking place in uninhabited areas (i.e. outside towns, hamlets, or stations) in North and East Greenland, anywhere on sea ice, or on the Ice Cap are required to bring an approved (certified) emergency radio beacon ('Personal Locator Beacon': PLB). The PLB must be capable of simultaneous transmission on 121.5 MHz / (243M Hz) and 406 MHz with a 121.5 MHz homing device and continuous transmission using an internal power supply for at least 24 hours at an ambient temperature down to -20° C. On the PLB can encrypt a 9 digit MMSI number or with Hexi Digital ID code consisting of 15 digit numbers and letters, numbers from 0 - 9 and letters from A - F.

1.1.2. Marine VHF Radio requirements

In addition to the PLB, all expeditions are required to bring a marine VHF radio. Marine VHF radio sets are a combined transmitter and receiver and only operates on standard, international frequencies known as channels. Channel 16 (156.8 MHz) is the international calling and distress channel, which expeditions must use in case of emergency to get in contact with the authorities rescue units (including both marine vessels and helicopters). The VHF must therefore be able to transmit/receive on channel 16 (156.8 MHz). The handiest version for expeditions is probably a portable, waterproof VHF walkie-talkie in design, which fulfills the authorities' requirements.

1.1.3. Satellite telephone requirements

Finally, all expeditions are required to bring a satellite phone. These phones can be compared to a mobile phone, but instead of connecting to terrestrial cell sites they connect to orbiting satellites. Satellite phones can be used for voice, short messages and internet access. The authorities have no special recommendation on brand or model.

1.1.4. How to obtain a permit

Carrying a PLB and other radio equipment in Greenland requires a radio permit. To obtain a permit the radio permit application form must be completed and sent to the issuing authority- the Radio Administration (see contact details below). The radio permit application forms can be downloaded from www.nanoq.gl/expeditions or www.aua.gl. Applications must be submitted no later than 3 months prior to the start of the activity in Greenland.

For more information contact the Radio Administration at:

Radio Administration
P.O. Box 909
3900 Nuuk
Greenland
Phone: +299 345000,
Fax: +299 346356,
E-mail: RFV@nanoq.gl
www.naalakkersuisut.gl

Please notice that the Ministry of Domestic Affairs, Nature and Environment is not responsible for issuing radio permits, applications must be send to the Radio Administration.

Once the radio permit is obtained from the Radio Administration the expedition leader must send a copy to the Ministry of Domestic Affairs, Nature and Environment. The Ministry must receive the copy of the radio permit no later than 8 weeks before the expedition start.