

PREMIUM  
ALPINE  
PERFORMANCE



# MANUAL 08 20

## PIEPS iPROBE BT

ENGLISH

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## Thank you for purchasing a PIEPS iPROBE BT!

Register your PIEPS device in the PIEPS APP (iOS, Android) or at my.pieps.com and get:

- Important information about your product
- Important information about software updates

With the following functionalities, the PIEPS iPROBE BT offers inexperienced beginners and trained professional rescuers maximum support at pinpointing and in multiple burials scenarios. It also saves valuable time when rescuing companions and at organized rescue operations:

- Optical and acoustic hit-indicator
- PIEPS SAFETY MARKER (with PIEPS 100cm and 40cm marker)
- Auto-Switch ON/OFF
- Wireless device management with Bluetooth and PIEPS APP
- Multiple burials support through automatic sleep-mode of PIEPS beacons with iPROBE support
- Centimeter scale
- Easy and fast assembly of the probe
- Speed-Cone system for quick extension
- Quick-closing-latch for reliable locking of the probe
- Elastic closure buckle
- Software updates

With the PIEPS iPROBE BT, you have a product that is state of the art in terms of safety and user-friendliness. Despite this, the PIEPS iPROBE BT can pose risks if used inappropriately or incorrectly. We refer to possible hazards in *chapter Error! Reference source not found.* and with safety notes placed throughout the operating manual.

This operating manual is intended to ensure the safe use of the PIEPS iPROBE BT. The safety instructions in this document must be followed at all times. Before you use the PIEPS iPROBE BT, you must have read and understand this operating manual.

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## 1.1 MARKINGS

In accordance with applicable regulations, the following marks may be found on the PIEPS iPROBE BT or/and on the packaging:



CE mark of conformity: indicating the fulfilment of the following standards: EMV 2014/30/EU, RED 2014/53/EU, RoHS 2011/65/EU.



Dustbin symbol: advising users to dispose of waste electrical and electronic equipment separately from unsorted municipal waste.

FCC ID

FCC ID: indicating the compliance with Part 15 of the FCC Rules.

IC ID

IC ID: indicating the compliance with Industry Canada's licence-exempt RSS standard(s).



Bluetooth® logo: The Bluetooth® word mark and logos are registered trademarks owned by the Bluetooth SIG, Inc. and any use of such marks by Pieps GmbH is under license. Other trademarks and trade names are those of their respective owners.

SN

12-digit serial number: identifying the device and is used for device registration.



Recycling symbol.



Battery symbol: indicating battery type and correct position.



Instruction pictogram: advising users to read the instructions and warnings.

**PIEPS**

PIEPS brand name.



PIEPS logo.

iPROBE BT

Technology / System name

iPROBE BT 260

Example of the model name

## 1.2 LIABILITY

The information contained in this operating manual describes but does not guarantee the features of the product. No liability is accepted for damage caused by:

- improper use,
- failure to follow the operating manual,
- unauthorized modifications of the PIEPS iPROBE BT,
- improper work on and with the PIEPS iPROBE BT,
- continuing to use the PIEPS iPROBE BT despite evidence of wear and tear,
- unauthorized, improperly carried out repairs,
- emergencies, external influences or force majeure.

### NOTICE

*Alterations or modifications not explicitly approved by the manufacturer will result in you no longer being allowed to use the device.*

## 1.3 WARRANTY CONDITIONS

The manufacturer provides a 2-year warranty covering manufacturing and material defects of the PIEPS iPROBE BT from the date of purchase. Exceptions are the battery, probe bag as well as any damage caused by improper use or dismantling of the device by unauthorized persons. Any other warranties and liability for consequential damage are expressly excluded. For warranty claims, please take proof of purchase and a description of the fault to the point of sale.

## 1.4 MANUFACTURER ADDRESS & SUPPORT

Pieps GmbH, Parkring 4, 8403 Lebring, Austria

For technical problems, please contact the support: [support@pieps.com](mailto:support@pieps.com)

## 1.5 INTENDED USE

The PIEPS iPROBE BT is an electronic avalanche probe with an optical and acoustic hit indicator to every transmitting beacon (according to standard EN300718), as well as an automatic sleep-mode of beacons with iPROBE-Support. In practice, the PIEPS iPROBE BT is used for the pinpointing of a person buried by an avalanche and must be used for this intended purpose only. Detailed knowledge of avalanche prevention is as indispensable as regularly practicing victim searches in an emergency. The following procedures and tips relate only to special usage in conjunction with the PIEPS iPROBE BT. The basic line of action in an emergency – as explained in specialist publications and material from avalanche courses – must be followed. The PIEPS iPROBE BT must always be folded away on descents and stowed securely in the backpack (e.g. emergency pocket).

The PIEPS iPROBE BT is an electronic avalanche probe with a number of automatic functions – for this reason, the PIEPS iPROBE BT may only be commissioned after having read and understood the documentation. Failure to use the device as intended will result in all liability and warranty claims being rejected. The PIEPS iPROBE BT is to be operated only under the conditions of use described in the documentation.

## 1.6 TARGET GROUP AND PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

An avalanche probe should be part of the avalanche emergency equipment of everyone who ventures off from the secured piste into open, unsecured terrain (e.g. ski touring, freeriding, mountain rescue operations, etc.).

Users of the PIEPS iPROBE BT must meet the following conditions:

- Read and understand this operating manual.
- Users with impaired vision must ensure that they can read the multi-coloured optical display (LED-lights) and displays on the device as well as the instructions in the documentation without problem.
- If users with impaired hearing are unable to hear the acoustic signal, they must ensure that they can correctly interpret the display indications in accordance with the instructions in the operating manual.
- Regular training ensures safe and efficient use of the PIEPS iPROBE BT.

## 1.7 ESSENTIALS

The PIEPS iPROBE BT meets the current state of technology and the applicable health and safety regulations. However, incorrect operation or misuse can give rise to hazards for:

- the life and health of the users or third parties,
- the PIEPS iPROBE BT and property of the user,
- the efficient use of the PIEPS iPROBE BT.

## 1.8 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Name	PIEPS iPROBE BT 220   260   300
Transmission frequency	457 kHz
Bluetooth transmission frequency	2.402 - 2.480 GHz
Bluetooth transmission power	0 dBm
Probe length total	220 cm   260 cm   300 cm
Probe pack length	47,6 cm
Weight incl. battery	380 g   420 g   460 g
Power supply	1x Alkaline, AA, LR6, 1,5V
Battery lifetime	100 h
Temperature range	-20° C to +45° C (-4° F to +113° F)
Approaching range	2 m
Targeting range	approx. 50 to 0 cm
Probing length (mechanical)	220 cm   260 cm   300 cm
Probing length (mechanical + electronical)	270 cm   310 cm   350 cm

## 2. SAFETY

This operating manual is structured in accordance with the applicable EU regulations and contains safety instructions. Each individual is personally responsible for complying with the safety instructions. This chapter contains all safety-related information.

Should anything be unclear or difficult to understand, please contact our support team.

### 2.1 SIGNAL WORDS USED IN THE SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

- ⚠ DANGER** *Imminent threat to the life of individuals*  
A safety instruction with the signal word DANGER indicates an imminent threat to the life and health of individuals!
- ⚠ WARNING** *Risk of personal injury (serious injuries) and possible material damage*  
A safety instruction with the signal word WARNING indicates a dangerous situation which could affect the health of individuals.
- ⚠ CAUTION** *Risk of material damage and possible minor risk of injury*  
A safety instruction with the signal word CAUTION indicates a possibly dangerous situation which could primarily result in material damage.
- NOTICE** *This symbol with the text NOTICE indicates supporting information.*

## 2.2 GENERAL SAFETY RULES AND OBLIGATIONS

The following safety rules and obligations apply in general for using the PIEPS iPROBE BT:

- The PIEPS iPROBE BT must only be used in perfect condition.
- It is forbidden to change the PIEPS iPROBE BT without the written permission of Pieps GmbH.
- Do not attempt to repair damage or malfunctions without authorization. Instead, contact our support, who will tell how to proceed. The PIEPS iPROBE BT must not be used until the damage/malfunction has been repaired.
- The safety and operating instructions in the operating manual must be followed at all times.

## 2.3 RESIDUAL RISKS | WARNINGS

Even though the PIEPS iPROBE BT has been designed with maximum care and all safety-related facts have been taken into consideration, residual risks may exist and must be evaluated by means of a risk assessment. All residual risks and warnings from the risk assessment are listed in this chapter.

- ▲ DANGER**      ***Risk of electric shock when touching the unit with electrical conductors.***  
*Keep yourself and the unit at a safe distance from energized conductors.*
- ▲ WARNING**      ***Risk of puncture injuries from the metal tip of the probe.***  
*Be aware of puncture injuries in the area of the tip. Never point the tip towards people, with the exception of the buried person.*
- ▲ WARNING**      ***Risk of hearing damage due to the high noise level.***  
*Never hold the device directly next to your ear! A minimum distance of 50 cm is recommended.*
- ▲ CAUTION**      ***Risk of accidental folding up of the probe.***  
*Transport the unit in a folded and secured condition only (by means of a closure buckle or in the backpack emergency pocket). Ensure that the unit is stored properly in the backpack and is secured against being lost.*
- ▲ CAUTION**      ***Risk of crushing from assembling and locking the probe tubes***  
*During tension, be aware of any possible risk of crushing when locking the individual probe tubes. Always hold the probe by the handle and push it into soft ground (snow). Lock the probe with the quick-closing latch.*
- ▲ CAUTION**      ***Risk of crushing when fixing the quick-closing system***  
*Beware of crushing risks when fixing the quick-closing system.*
- ▲ WARNING**      ***Risk of falling and slipping during operation with snow gloves***  
*When using the probe while wearing snow gloves, there is a risk of slipping on the probe tube, which can result in a loss of balance. The probe tube must not be used as a walking aid.*
- ▲ DANGER**      ***Risk of battery explosion due to improper battery types or damaged batteries.***  
***Risk of incorrect battery capacity reading due to improper battery types.***  
*Use only batteries of type "Alkaline AA, LR6, 1,5V"!*
- ▲ CAUTION**      ***Risk of device malfunction or damage due to extreme temperatures***  
*Do not expose the device to extreme temperatures outside of the operating limits! Store the device protected from direct sunlight! Extreme temperatures can result in malfunction or damage.*
- NOTICE**      *If the PIEPS iPROBE BT is defect (system error self-test), no electronic functionalities are available, and any electronic support will lapse. In this case, use the PIEPS iPROBE BT like a classic avalanche probe.*
- NOTICE**      *The user must read the operating manual!*

### 3. PACKAGING

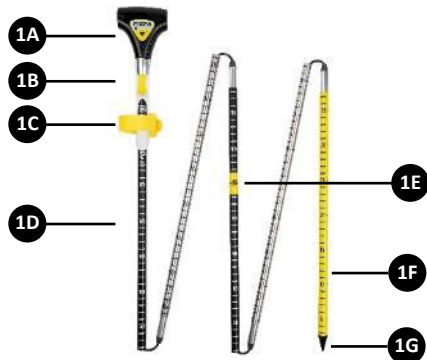
- 1x PIEPS iPROBE BT
- 1x battery (in battery compartment)
- 1x storage bag
- 1x Quick Start Guide

Check that the contents are complete and undamaged after unpacking. If necessary, contact your point of sale or our support team. A correct disposal of the packaging is an environmentally friendly manner (paper to paper, plastic to plastic, etc.).

**⚠ CAUTION** *Risk of damages due to inefficient packaging at transport.*  
*It is recommended to keep the packaging after unpacking and keep it to use it in case of warranty issues.*

### 4. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

#### 4.1 STRUCTURE



- (1A) Probe handle with LED display and loudspeaker for optical and acoustic indication of system status
- (1B) Quick-closing latch for reliable locking of the probe
- (1C) Elastic closure buckle for secure closure
- (1D) Probe tube with centimeter scale for reading burial depth and as centimeter measurement for snow profiles
- (1E) PIEPS Safety Marker: 100 cm marking
- (1F) PIEPS Safety Marker: last 40 cm marking
- (1G) Probe tip with integrated receiver localizes any standard avalanche beacon
- (1H) Loudspeaker for acoustic indication of system status
- (1J) LED-lights in green, red and blue for optical indication of system status
- (1K) Battery symbol with polarity indication
- (1L) Battery compartment access






## 4.2 SWITCHING ON | SELF-CHECK

To switch on the PIEPS iPROBE BT go through these steps:








- Open the elastic closure buckle (1C).
- Eject the PIEPS iPROBE BT into soft ground (snow) and tension the probe. To do so, hold the top part of the probe tube with one hand and with the other hand pull the probe handle (1A) until the quick-closing latch (1B) clicks into place and a beep from the loudspeaker (1H) indicates that the PIEPS iPROBE BT is switched on.



**NOTICE** *The switching on of the electronic is confirmed with an acoustic (Piep-tone) signal.*  
 *Continuous signal for 1 second (piiiaiiiiieep)*

### 4.2.1 Self-check

When switching on the PIEPS iPROBE BT an extensive self-check is performed, and all relevant system components are tested.

PIEPS iPROBE BT Status		Optical signal indication (LEDs)	Acoustic signal indication
Switching on			Continuous tone for 1 s (piiiaiiiiieep) 
Self-check	Self-check „OK“	Both LEDs lit GREEN for 1 second 	No acoustic signal 
	Self-check „Low battery capacity“	Both LEDs flash RED for 3 seconds 	Warning tone for 3 seconds (5x piiieep), see Replacing the battery 
	Self-check „System error“	Both LEDs lit RED as long as the PIEPS iPROBE BT is switched on 	Warning tone for 3 seconds (5x piiieep), see Troubleshooting 

- If the PIEPS iPROBE BT is OK (self-check “OK”), a green LED-light lits for 1 second. The LED-light of the Check A1 then starts flashing and the PIEPS iPROBE BT can be used.
- If the battery needs to be replaced (low battery capacity self-check), a red flashing LED light and an acoustic warning signal will be indicated for 3 seconds. The LED-light of the Check A1 then starts flashing and the PIEPS iPROBE BT can be used. In this case, replace the battery.
- If the PIEPS iPROBE BT shows an error (system error self-test), a permanent red LED-light and an acoustic warning signal will be indicated for 3 seconds. The optical warning will continue as long as the PIEPS iPROBE BT is activated. The electronic functionalities are not available. In this case, perform troubleshooting.

**NOTICE** *If the PIEPS iPROBE BT is defect (system error self-check), no electronic functionalities are available, and any electronic support will lapse. In this case, use the PIEPS iPROBE BT like a classic avalanche probe.*

## 4.3 FUNCTIONALITY DURING OPERATION

CHECK A	<b>Check A1</b> Search mode	<b>Check A2</b> Proximity indicator	<b>Check A3</b> Hit indicator
CHECK B	<b>Check B</b> Transmitter deactivation (sleep-mode)		

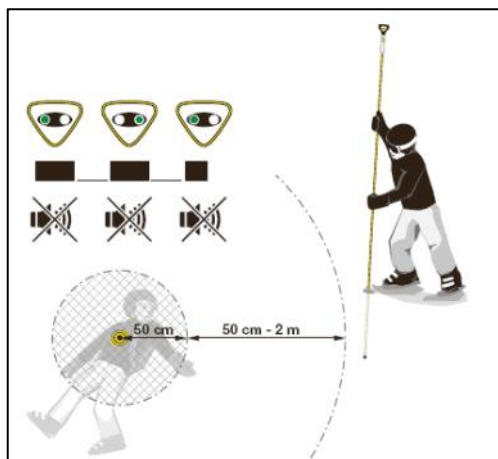
### 4.3.1 Check A: Search mode | Proximity indicator | Hit indicator

The optical and acoustic hit indicator gives you maximum support and saves valuable time at pinpointing!

In search mode (Check A1), the PIEPS iPROBE BT searches for a transmitting beacon. From a distance of approx. 2 to 0.5 m between probe tip and transmitting beacon, the proximity indicator (Check A2) is indicated. From a distance of approx. 0.5 – 0 m, the PIEPS iPROBE BT signals a hit (Check A3).

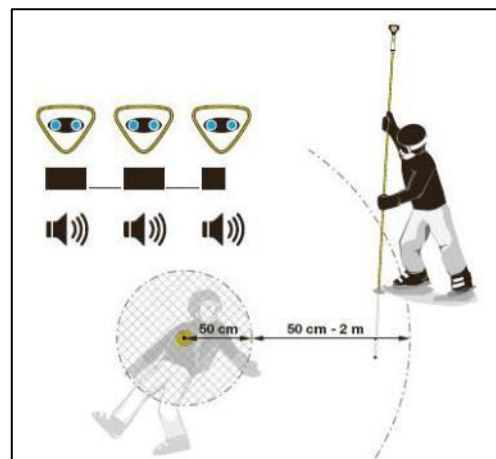
**NOTICE** *The proximity and hit indicators operate for each transmitting beacon that transmits according to standard EN300718.*

#### Check A1: Search mode, no active transmitting beacon within < 2 m



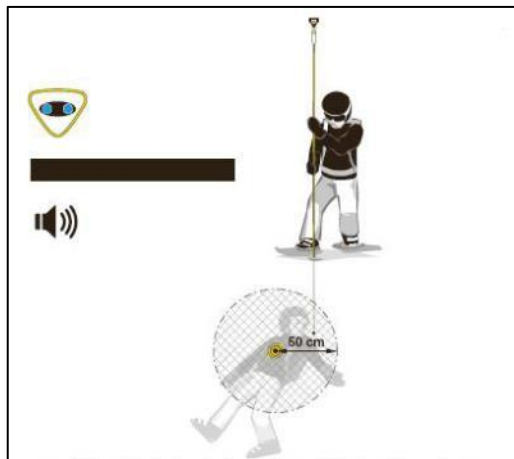
- LEDs flash GREEN
- No acoustic signal output

#### Check A2: Proximity indicator, active transmitting beacon within approx. 2 - 0.5 m



- both LEDs flash BLUE with the interval of the transmitting beacon
- acoustic signal with the interval of the transmitting beacon (piep\_piep\_piep\_etc.)

#### Check A3: Hit indicator, active transmitting beacon within < 0.5 m



- Both LEDs lit BLUE
- Continuous tone (piiiiiiiiie...)

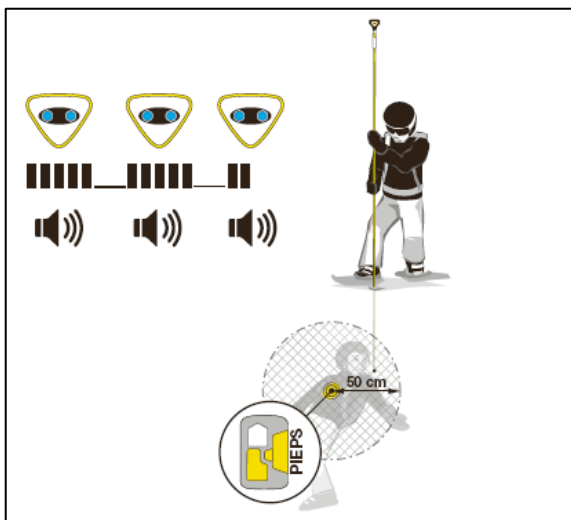
### 4.3.2 Check B: Transmitter deactivation – Sleep-mode

The automatic sleep-mode of beacons with iPROBE-support saves time in multiple burials scenarios. The display of the receiving beacon shows the next strongest signal without pressing the MARK-button. The rescuer can start with the search immediately.


A transmitting beacon is automatically deactivated after the hit indicator (Check A3) if the transmitting beacon has iPROBE-Support\* and the iPROBE is in a vertical position in the snow. Deactivation (sleep-mode) takes place within a few seconds.

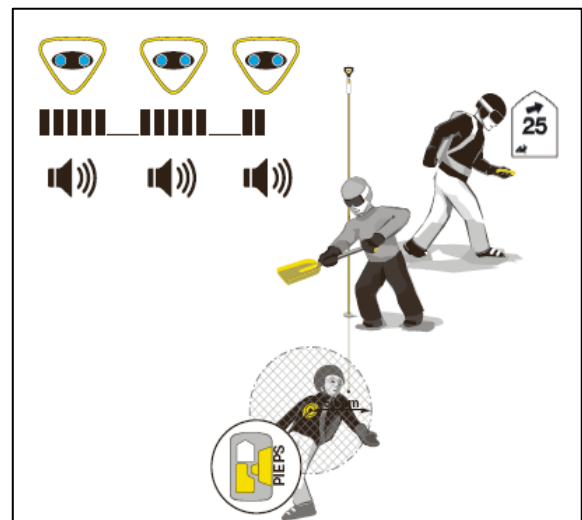
\* Avalanche beacons with PIEPS iPROBE-Support: PIEPS PRO BT, PIEPS POWDER BT, PIEPS MICRO BT sensor/button/RACE, PIEPS DSP SPORT, PIEPS DSP PRO/PRO ICE, , PIEPS DSP STANDARD/TOUR  $\geq$  v5.0, PIEPS FREERIDE, BLACK DIAMOND GUIDE/RECON.

**Check B: Transmitter deactivation, temporarily deactivation (sleep-mode) of the transmitting beacon within < 0.5m**



 both LEDs flash BLUE, 5 repeated flashes

 repeated groups of 5 beeps  
(ti-ti-ti-ti-ti\_ti-ti-ti-ti-ti\_etc.)



After deactivation of the transmitting beacon, the display of the receiving beacon shows the next strongest signal. The rescuer immediately follows the new signal, while other rescuers start digging.

As long as the PIEPS iPROBE BT remains in the near range (0 – approx. 0.5 m) of the transmitting beacon, the beacon remains deactivated (stays in sleep-mode). If the PIEPS iPROBE BT is removed or changed to the horizontal position, the transmitting beacon starts transmitting again after 5 seconds.

After being moved away from the transmitting beacon, the PIEPS iPROBE BT remains in Check B until:

- The PIEPS iPROBE BT is changed from the vertical position to a horizontal position < 20° (carrying position). In this case, the PIEPS iPROBE BT switches automatically to search mode (Check A1).
- Or a new transmitting signal is received. In this case, the PIEPS iPROBE BT switches automatically to the proximity indicator (Check A2) or hit indicator (Check A3).

**NOTICE** *If the transmitting beacon does not have iPROBE-Support, the transmitting beacon is not deactivated and the PIEPS iPROBE BT remains in Check A3 mode (hit indicator).*

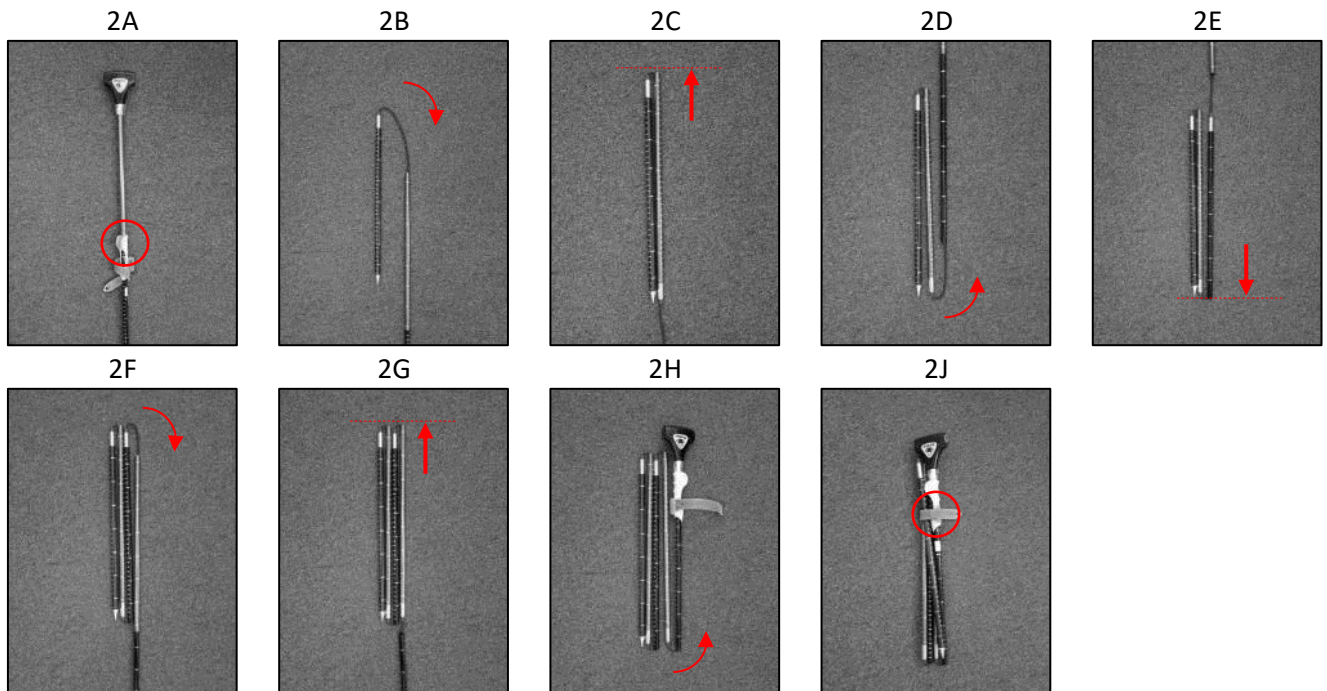
**NOTICE** *The function „Sleep-mode“ can optionally be deactivated in the PIEPS APP.*

## 4.4 SWITCHING OFF & CORRECT FOLDING

The PIEPS iPROBE BT switches off automatically when tension is removed, and the probe is folded.

For switching off and folding proceed the following steps:

- Press the quick-closing latch to release the lock and pull gently on the probe handle (2A).
- Start the folding process with the bottom probe tube and fold the next probe tube parallel to the first one (2B). Push the tube until it stops (2C).
- Repeat the process with the remaining probe tubes until the PIEPS iPROBE BT is completely folded (2D-2H).
- Fix the folded probe with the elastic closure buckle (2J).



### NOTICE

*Always start the folding procedure with the bottom probe tube and always push the probe tubes until they stop before starting the next folding procedure. This ensures a long life of the probe cable.*

## 4.5 IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

A buried person has the greatest chance of being rescued by an efficient companion rescue. In the event of an accident, the following applies: KEEP CALM, OBSERVE, ALERT, ACT WITH COORDINATION!

### (1) Keep calm & get an overview

- Are there any other risks?
- How many victims?
- Determine the primary search area!

### (2) Make a brief emergency call

- EU 112, AT 140, CH 1414, IT 118, FR 15, NA 911

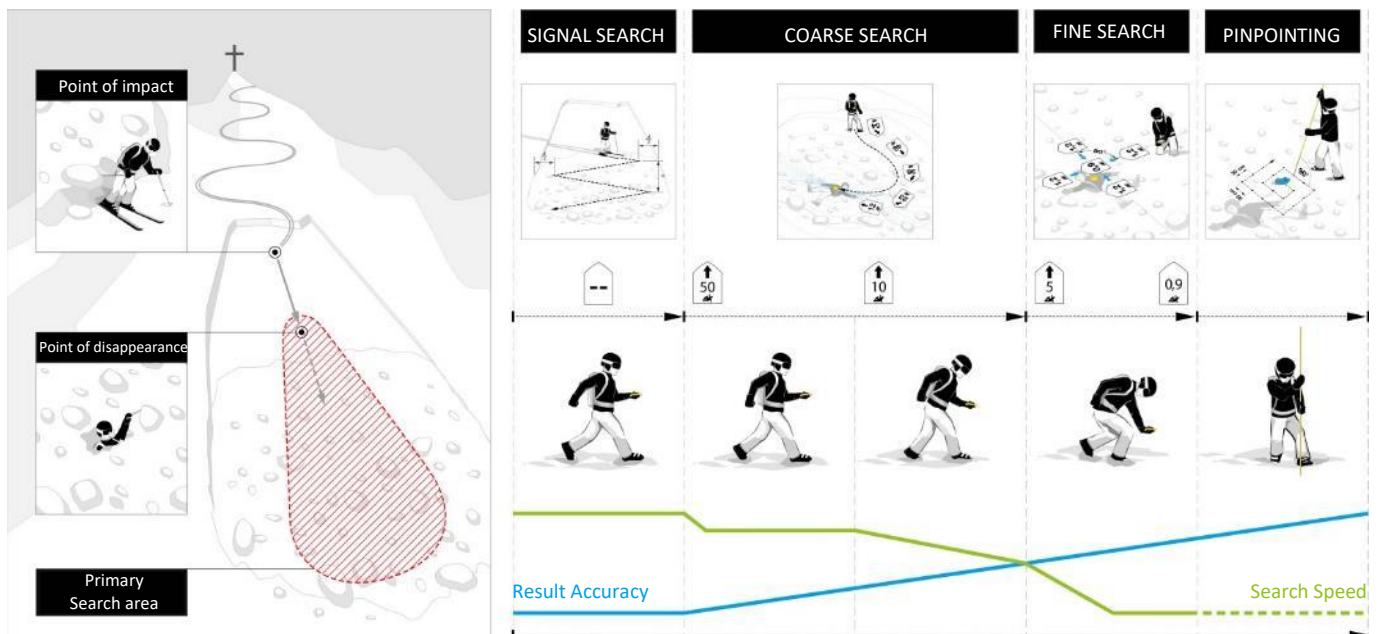
### (3) Burial search

- Signal search (eyes + ears, beacon)
- Coarse search (starting with initial signal)
- Fine search (closer than 5 m on the surface)
- Pinpointing (systematic probing)

### (4) Systematic digging

### (5) First Aid

### (6) Rescue





## 5. DEVICE MANAGEMENT WITH THE PIEPS APP

Bluetooth and the PIEPS APP allow a straightforward device management (e.g. software update, device configuration) and additionally provide a handy training mode.

Get the PIEPS APP (Android Play Store, iOS App Store), connect your PIEPS beacon and take advantage of all features!

**NOTICE**            *If the PIEPS APP is already installed, be aware to use the latest version*

To connect the PIEPS iPROBE BT with your Bluetooth-device, follow these instructions:

1. Activate the PIEPS iPROBE BT and lean it on a wall with the upturned probe tip within 60 seconds.
2. When the PIEPS iPROBE BT is ready to connect, this is confirmed with an acoustic (2x piep) and optical (simultaneous flashing of the green and blue LED-lights) signal (after approx. 10 seconds).
3. Follow the instructions of the device manager in the PIEPS App to build up a connection (Notice: When no connection is built up within 5 minutes, the PIEPS iPROBE BT needs to be deactivated and activated again.)
4. A successful connection is indicated with a permanent blue and a flashing green LED-light.
5. After a successful connection the system checks and updates can be performed. Therefore, follow the instructions in the PIEPS APP.
6. To end the Bluetooth-mode, unlink the PIEPS iPROBE BT in the PIEPS APP or turn the probe so the probe tip is on the ground again.
7. Bluetooth error: A Bluetooth error is indicated with a permanent red and a flashing green LED-light.

**NOTICE**            *The Bluetooth connection is automatically interrupted after 5 minutes of inactivity!*

**⚠ DANGER**        ***Risk of a not transmitting device due to enabled Bluetooth***  
*The Bluetooth mode is supposed for device management and training mode only. Never use the Bluetooth mode in avalanche terrain!*

In the PIEPS APP the following settings can be made:

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Possible Settings</i>
Admin Lock	On/Off
Transmitter deactivation	On/Off
Volume	Low / Medium / High
Device-Check	✓
Battery capacity	In %
Reset to factory defaults	✓

**Further useful features of the PIEPS APP:**

- Software Updates
- Training mode
- Practical scenarios
- Fleet management

## 6. TROUBLESHOOTING, MAINTENANCE, STORAGE, DISPOSAL

### 6.1 TROUBLESHOOTING

When the PIEPS iPROBE BT shows no indication when switching on or a system error is indicated after the self-check., perform the following instructions:

- 1) Deactivate the PIEPS iPROBE BT (remove tension and fold the tubes)
- 2) Check the PIEPS iPROBE BT for physical damage.
- 3) Check the battery capacity, type and polarity (+,-). Replace the battery.
- 4) Activate the PIEPS iPROBE BT again.
- 5) Perform a device-check in the PIEPS APP.

If the PIEPS iPROBE BT still shows no indication or a system error, please take the device to your retailer or contact our support ([support@pieps.com](mailto:support@pieps.com)) .

### 6.2 BATTERY REPLACEMENT

The PIEPS iPROBE BT analyses the charge remaining in the battery each time the probe is switched on. If the charge reaches a critical level, a warning will be indicated after the self-test for 3 seconds.

PIEPS recommends replacing the battery immediately, even though there should be enough power left for another 1 - 3 rescues.

Replace the battery as follows:

- Unscrew the cover of the battery compartment anticlockwise (3A).
- Replace the battery with 1x Alkaline, AA, LR6, 1,5V. When installing the new battery, make sure the polarity is correct (3B).
- Dispose of the battery in accordance with the law in your country.



**⚠ DANGER**

***Risk of explosion from incorrectly used batteries.***

***Risk of incorrect battery capacity indication.***

***Only use batteries of type „Alkaline, AA, LR6, 1,5V“!***



## 6.3 CLEANING

Use a damp cloth without cleaning agent to clean the device.

**NOTICE** *Flowing water, steam or cleaning agent must not be used to clean the device. To do so could impede operation of the device.*



## 6.4 STORAGE

Store the device in a dry room at room temperature.



**NOTICE** *If the device is not used for extended periods of time (summer months), it is recommended to remove the batteries from the battery compartment. The warranty does not cover damage caused by leaking batteries.*

**⚠ CAUTION** ***Risk of device malfunction or damage due to extreme temperatures**  
Do not expose the device to extreme temperatures outside the operating limits!  
Store the device protected from direct sunlight! Extreme temperatures can result in malfunction or damage!*

## 6.5 DISPOSAL

**NOTICE** *Please note that the device is an electronic device. It cannot therefore be disposed by public waste management companies. Dispose of the device in accordance with the law in your country.*



## 7. CONFORMITY

### EUROPE

Hereby, Pieps GmbH declares that the radio equipment type PIEPS iPROBE BT is in compliance with Directive 2014/53/EU. The full text of the EU declaration of conformity is available at the following internet address:  
[www.pieps.com/conformity](http://www.pieps.com/conformity)