



NAMIBIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

Advisory Pamphlet (AP)

ANSSO-SAR-AP179/02

GUIDANCE ON PREPARATION OF SEARCH AND RESCUE AGREEMENTS

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Mr. Reinhard Gärtner

Interim Executive Director of Civil Aviation

GUIDANCE ON PREPARATION OF SEARCH AND RESCUE AGREEMENTS

1. PURPOSE

This Advisory Pamphlet (AP) provides general information regarding search and rescue agreements. It provides a sample SAR agreement that can be adapted by the search and rescue agency to prepare agreements at the local, national, or international level to comply with the requirements of NAMCARs, Part 179.

2. BACKGROUND

- (a) NAM-CARs Part 179 requires the SAR coordinating agency to conclude agreements concerning the provision of assistance with, local public authorities and suitable private agencies or persons, for the purpose of search and rescue operations.
- (b) The NAM-CARs Parts 179 further requires the SAR coordinating agency to enter into agreements with neighbouring States to strengthen search and rescue cooperation and coordination.
- (c) Below are the extracts from the Civil Aviation Regulations Part 179 – Search and Rescue, to which this Advisory Pamphlet apply.

3. EXTRACTS FROM NAM-CARS, PART 179 – SEARCH AND RESCUE

179.02.2 Provision of search and rescue services

- (5) The SAR coordinating agency and any public authorities, private agencies or persons providing search and rescue services within the territory of Namibia or areas over the high seas for which Namibia has accepted responsibility to provide search and rescue services must provide the services in accordance with the provisions of Part 179.

179.04.1 Cooperation with other States

- (1) The search and rescue coordinating agency must in coordination with the Executive Director:
- (a) coordinate its search and rescue organization with those of neighbouring States.
 - (b) as necessary, coordinate its search and rescue operations with those of neighbouring States, when these operations are proximate to adjacent search and rescue regions.
 - (c) as far as practicable develop common search and rescue plans and procedures to facilitate coordination of search and rescue operations with those of neighbouring States;
 - (d) enter into agreements with neighbouring States to strengthen SAR cooperation and coordination;
 - (e) make arrangements for joint training exercise to promote SAR efficiency;
 - (f) make arrangements for periodic liaison visits by its RCC and RSCs personnel to centres of neighbouring States.

4. EXTRACTS FROM DOCUMENT NAM-CATS-SAR

179.02.4 Establishment of Rescue Coordination Centres (RCC) and Rescue Sub Centres

- 1.5 The search and rescue coordinating agency must:
- (a) make formal arrangements for cooperative and appropriate use of public and private search and rescue units that are suitably located, equipped and crewed for search and rescue operations throughout the search and rescue region;
 - (b) maintain an accurate and complete database of search and rescue units and other search and rescue facilities and resources within the search and rescue region; and
 - (c) make arrangements for the timely advice to the rescue coordination centre of any change in the readiness or capability of the published search and rescue units and other search and rescue facilities and resources.

- (d) designated and publish in the AIP as alerting posts, suitable units of public or private services in areas where telecommunications facilities would not permit persons observing an aircraft in emergency to notify the rescue coordination centre concerned directly and promptly; and
- (e) ensure that the units designated in accordance with (d) are suitably located, equipped and crewed for search and rescue operations throughout the search and rescue region.

179.04.1 Cooperation with other States

- 1.6 The SAR coordinating agency must enter into agreements with neighbouring States to strengthen search and rescue cooperation and coordination, setting forth the conditions for entry of each other's SAR units into their respective territories. These agreements must also provide arrangements for expediting entry of such units with the least possible formalities.

GUIDANCE ON PREPARATION OF SEARCH AND RESCUE AGREEMENTS

Note 1. The sample search and rescue agreement provided in this Advisory Pamphlet can be adapted for local, national, or international use. Each section of the sample agreement may be optionally used or adapted as the Parties agree, bearing in mind consistency with the principles of international law, and the goals of IMO, ICAO and the States and organizations concerned.

Note 2. For the purpose of this sample agreement, "Parties" mean organizations within a State, maritime and/or aeronautical SAR authorities of two or more different States (particularly with neighbouring search and rescue regions), or higher authorities of two or more States.

Note 3. It is generally advisable to include specific information, such as phone numbers or addresses, in appendices or other documents separate from the

basic signed agreement. When SRRs are addressed in the agreements, normally only the lines separating the SRRs of the Parties are described, since other delimitation of the SRRs would normally involve States other than the Parties. Agreements between national organizations may or may not need to address geographic areas of responsibility. It should be recognized among the Parties that the establishment of SRRs is mainly for ensuring the availability of SAR services, and to facilitate proper distribution of distress alerts to RCCs; SRRs should not be viewed as affecting political boundaries, and do not need to align with political boundaries if the Parties so agree for the sake of improving or simplifying SAR operations. SRR delimitation over international waters is not intended to obstruct the provision of SAR services in any way. Furthermore, the provision of SAR services within an SRR shall be without regard to the nationality or circumstances of the persons in distress.

Note 4. If agreements discuss territorial entry for SAR, provisions should account for a balance of concerns for sovereignty and concerns for saving lives. The concept of "territory" is understood to include territorial land, airspace and seas.

Note 5. It is advisable that SAR agreements address sensitive issues to the degree necessary for practical SAR co-operation between or among the Parties, while emphasizing the humanitarian nature of SAR, and avoiding topics which are unrelated to SAR, or which are both politically sensitive and unnecessary.

AGREEMENT ON [AERONAUTICAL AND/OR MARITIME] SEARCH AND RESCUE BETWEEN [NAME THE PARTIES].

1. INTRODUCTION

Knowing the importance of co-operation in search and rescue (SAR), and of the provision of expeditious and effective SAR services;

5. GENERAL PROVISIONS

This Agreement:
shall enter into force . . . [provisions as appropriate].
may be amended . . . [provisions as appropriate]; and
may be terminated or superseded . . . [provisions as appropriate];

Signature

Signature

Agency A

Agency B