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SAR.6/Circ.21/Rev.1  
2 May 2017

## **AREA SEARCH AND RESCUE PLANS**

### **Notification of an Arrangement in accordance with paragraph 2.1.5 of the annex to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, as amended**

#### **Notification by New Zealand**

- 1 The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to transmit herewith the text of the revised Arrangement or Cooperation between New Zealand Search and Rescue Services and French Maritime Search and Rescue Services in New Caledonia, submitted in accordance with paragraph 2.1.5 of the annex to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, as amended, as set out in the annex.
- 2 The Secretary-General would be grateful if steps could be taken to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate authorities.
- 3 This circular supersedes SAR.6/Circ.21.

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**ANNEX**



**Arrangement for Cooperation**

**between**

**New Zealand Search and Rescue  
Services**

**and**

**French Maritime Search and Rescue  
Services  
in New Caledonia**

Cancel and replace the arrangement for cooperation of 7 August 2002

The Director of Maritime, New Zealand, and *Le Délégué du Gouvernement pour l'action de l'Etat en mer, Haut-Commissaire de la République française en Nouvelle-Calédonie,*

RECOGNISING the importance of co-operation in aviation and maritime search and rescue and the need to ensure expeditious and effective search and rescue services, and

NOTING the relevant provisions of the standards and recommended practices contained in the Annex to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue 1979, the International Convention on Safety of Life at Sea 1974, and Article 98 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas 1982,

Subject to the legislation of each signatory administration, have made the following arrangement:

## 1. TERMINOLOGY

In this arrangement,  
MRCC means Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre;  
RCC means Rescue Coordination Centre;  
JRCCNZ means Joint Rescue coordination Centre of New Zealand;  
SAR means Search and Rescue;  
SMC means Search and Rescue Mission Co-ordinator; and  
SRR means Search and Rescue Region.

## 2. IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

For New Zealand : Maritime New Zealand, Authority responsible for search and rescue within the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region

For France : National Maritime SAR Co-ordination :  
*le Premier Ministre*  
*(Secrétariat Général de la Mer – Organisme SECMAR).*

French Authority responsible for maritime SAR in New Caledonia:  
*le Délégué du Gouvernement pour l'action de l'Etat en mer, Haut-Commissaire de la République en Nouvelle-Calédonie* assisted by *le Commandant de Zone Maritime de Nouvelle-Calédonie*

The RCCs of both signatory administrations involved by this Arrangement will be:  
for New Zealand: JRCC NZ Wellington  
for France (New Caledonia) : MRCC Noumea

## 3. SCOPE OF THE ARRANGEMENT

The RCCs of both signatory administrations will:

3.1 – Promptly and regularly exchange SAR information concerning an actual or a potential

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distress situation;

3.2 – Assist each other, to the extent possible, in conducting SAR missions in their respective SRRs and across their common SRR boundaries;

3.3 – Take appropriate measures for the use of facilities in each other's SRRs while engaged on a SAR mission;

3.4 – Exchange information on current SAR resources available, to ensure mutual knowledge of each other's SAR capabilities;

3.5 – Conduct communications checks with each other at least once per calendar month to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of SAR communication links;

3.6 – Conduct periodic SAR exercises to test their ability to conduct a SAR response across their common SRR boundary;

3.7 – Without prejudicing the ownership of intellectual property and copyright, exchange SAR operational and procedural documents to help promote mutual understanding and common procedures; and

3.8 – Arrange periodic liaison or exchange visits by personnel from each RCC.

#### **4. SEARCH AND RESCUE REGION (SRR) BOUNDARIES**

According to the conclusions of the Tokyo SAR Conference 1986 and the Seoul SAR Conference 1997, the contact area between the New Zealand search and rescue region and the French (New Caledonia) maritime search and rescue region is delineated by the following points:

A: 25° 00' South 163° 00' East                      B: 25° 00' South 174° 00' East  
C: 26° 00' South 174° 00' East                      D: 26° 00' South 163° 00' East

Note 1: Points D, A and B delineate the northern limit of the New Zealand SRR;

Note 2: Points B, C and D delineate the southern limit of the French (New Caledonia) maritime SRR; and

Note 3: Points A, B, C and D delineate the overlapping area.

#### **5. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRES**

The following procedures will be followed:

##### **5.1 – Determination of Responsible RCC**

The RCC responsible for initiating SAR action will be determined as follows:

5.1.1 – When the position of the casualty in distress needing assistance is known, action will be initiated by the RCC in whose SRR casualty is located.

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5.1.2 – When the position of the casualty in distress is known to be in the area where New Zealand and French (New Caledonia) SRRs are overlapping, SAR action will be initiated by the RCC which first becomes aware that the casualty may need assistance.

5.1.3 – When the position of the casualty in distress is unknown, but believed to be in the area of SRR overlap, the responsible RCC will be the RCC into whose SRR the casualty was proceeding.

5.1.4 – When the position of the casualty in distress is unknown, SAR action will be initiated by the RCC which first becomes aware that the casualty may need assistance. The RCC initiating a SAR operation will remain in charge of the mission until the responsible RCC takes over, if different.

The responsible RCC will be either the RCC:

- a) in whose SRR the casualty was operating when the last contact was made; or
- b) into whose SRR the casualty was proceeding if the last contact was made into the overlap area.

In all cases, phone contact between the RCCs must confirm the responsible RCC.

## 5.2 – Transferring overall coordination responsibility

When a transfer of responsibility for overall SAR co-ordination is to take place, either from the subsequent establishment of the casualty's position or movement, or because an RCC other than the one initiating the action is more favorably placed to assume control of the mission by reason of better communications, proximity to the search area, more readily available SAR units or facilities, or any other reasons, the following procedures will be adopted:

- (a) Direct discussions or communications will be conducted between the Search and Rescue Mission Co-ordinators (SMCs) concerned, to determine the best course of action;
- (b) If it is decided that a transfer of responsibility is appropriate for the whole mission or part thereof, full details of the previous action taken will be exchanged; and
- (c) The initiating RCC will retain responsibility until the accepting RCC formally advises the initiating RCC that it has assumed responsibility for overall SAR co-ordination.

## 5.3 – SAR mission in adjacent SRR

5.3.1 – When it becomes necessary for an RCC to deploy SAR units into the SRR of the other signatory administration, the SMC will, in addition to deploying such units for the mission, simultaneously advise the adjacent RCC by written message, providing the following information :

- (a) SAR mission identification;
- (b) SAR unit's identification and type;
- (c) Call Sign and name;
- (d) Point of departure, route and destination;

- (e) Assigned search task;
- (f) Number of persons on board;
- (g) Communications frequencies in use;
- (h) Relevant equipment carried;
- (i) Range and endurance; and
- (j) Plans for return to base after SAR tasks

5.3.2 – The SMC at the counterpart RCC will, on receipt, send an acknowledgment to the initiating RCC and indicate the conditions, if any, under which the intended mission is to be undertaken. All possible assistance will be rendered to enable the SAR mission to be carried out successfully.

5.3.3 – SAR units of one signatory administration will not enter restricted airspace or territory of the country of the other signatory administration until approval is received from the appropriate RCC.

#### **5.4 – Promulgation of Search Areas**

When the responsible RCC has been determined in accordance with paragraph 5.1, that RCC will determine the area of probability and establish the search area(s). The responsible RCC will, with the advice and assistance of the adjacent RCC, where appropriate, arrange the promulgation of a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) defining the search area(s) and any associated Restricted or Danger area(s) within their respective SRR, and will issue any necessary Maritime Safety Information (MSI) safety message(s) to shipping.

#### **5.5 – Liaison During a SAR Mission**

During the course of a SAR mission, the RCCs concerned will maintain close liaison in order to ensure the smooth and successful execution of the SAR mission. The RCC responsible for overall SAR co-ordination will keep the adjacent RCC informed at regular intervals of the number of SAR units involved in the mission, areas to be searched, actions taken to date, and the decision to suspend or terminate the SAR mission. This notification will take the form of situations reports (SITREPs) at least daily or at any time of significant change to the situation. Direct discussion between the SMCs of both RCCs should be undertaken whenever necessary.

### **6. USE OF OTHER SIGNATORY ADMINISTRATION'S SAR UNITS AND FACILITIES**

6.1 – SAR units assigned by the RCC of one signatory administration to the RCC of the other signatory administration which is responsible for overall co-ordination of a SAR mission will be placed under the direction of the relevant SMC for the period of their assignment, with the exception of military aircraft, ships or personnel which will remain under the command of the military headquarters of their State. As far as direct communications are possible, the responsible RCC will send directly to the SAR unit all instructions and information relative to the operation and the mission requested. The SAR unit will report directly to the responsible RCC.

6.2 – The RCC of the signatory administration requesting assistance in the form of SAR units or facilities of the other signatory administration will provide all pertinent details of the type and scope of the assistance or facilities required.

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6.3 – The requesting RCC will provide a full briefing, directly to each SAR unit that has been made available, on the scope of its mission before the units arrive in the area of the SAR operation.

6.4 – Without prejudice to the special provisions of paragraph 5.3.3, a SAR unit of one signatory administration participating in a SAR operation that is being coordinated by the RCC of the other signatory administration will, without special request, be authorized to enter or over the territorial sea of the country of the other signatory administration. The assisting SAR unit will notify the responsible RCC with the time and position of its entry into or over the territorial sea.

6.5 – A SAR unit of one signatory administration participating in a SAR operation that is being coordinated by the RCC of the other signatory administration should be authorized to call into appropriate ports or aerodromes of the last signatory administration. The RCC of this signatory administration will make necessary arrangements with public services and other bodies to facilitate this call and will transmit any useful information to the SAR unit involved.

## **7. SAR OPERATIONAL EXPENSES**

Following a SAR operation involving SAR units of both signatory administrations, expenses incurred by the SAR units of each signatory administration are the responsibility of the country of each signatory administration according to their national arrangement.

## **8. RECOVERY OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**

Recovery of re-useable supplies and survival equipment will be arranged between the respective RCCs. When practicable, recovered items will be returned to their owners unless other arrangements for their disposal are mutually determined in specific instances.

## **9. AMENDMENTS**

This arrangement may be amended by mutual decision of the signatory administrations by exchange of letters.

## **10. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

Any disputes between the signatory administrations arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this arrangement will be settled amicably by consultation between the signatory administrations.

## **11. COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION**

This Arrangement will come into effect on signature by both signatory administrations.

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This Arrangement may be terminated at any time by mutual consent or by either signatory administrations upon giving the other Signatory ninety (90) days' notice in writing.

In accordance with the provisions of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization will be notified of this Arrangement.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, have signed this Arrangement in two originals in French and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

Signed at *Wellington*

on *1-9-16*



Director of Maritime New Zealand,

Signed at *Noumea*

on *21/11/2016*

Le Délégué du Gouvernement  
pour l'action de l'Etat en mer,  
Haut-Commissaire de la République française  
en Nouvelle-Calédonie,



Thierry LATASTE