

# Schedule 22

## Part G -

### Search and Rescue

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## **SUBPART A: GENERAL**

### **22.701 APPLICABILITY**

- a) This Part prescribes the requirements of The Bahamas for—
  - 1) Organizations providing and coordinating aeronautical search and rescue services in the Bahamas Search and Rescue Region (SRR); and
  - 2) The operating and technical standards for providing aeronautical search and rescue by those organizations.
- b) This Part is applicable to—
  - 1) Persons required, or seeking, to provide aeronautical search and rescue services;
  - 2) Organizations that provide the required aeronautical search and rescue services; and
  - 3) Persons that administer the required aeronautical search and rescue services on behalf of the organizations.
- c) In this Part, references to the Bahamas SRR coincide with the Bahamas Maritime Region and Bahamas Flight Information Region (FIR) which are designated as sectors where an ICAO Contracting State other than the Bahamas is providing the service.
- d) The standards and recommended practices in this Part are based on those stipulated in Annex 12, Search and Rescue, to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (the Convention) [as in force and amended from time to time by the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)] and other relevant ICAO documents, and with such modifications as may be determined by the Authority to be applicable in the Bahamas. The provisions of this Part should also be applied in conjunction with the relevant provisions of:
  - 1) ICAO Annex 13 – *Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation* – and the national regulations relating to air accident investigation
  - 2) IAMSAR Manual Vol 1 – Organisation and Management
  - 3) IAMSAR Manual Vol II – Mission Co-Ordination
  - 4) IAMSAR Manual Vol III – Mobile Facilities

## 22.703 DEFINITIONS

- (a) For the purpose of this Part, the following definitions apply in addition to terms defined in Schedule 1 to the Regulations—

**Alerting post** Any facility intended to serve as an intermediary between a person reporting an emergency and a rescue coordination centre or rescue subcentre.

**Alert phase** A situation wherein apprehension exists as to the safety of an aircraft and its occupants.

**Distress phase** A situation wherein there is a reasonable certainty that an aircraft and its occupants are threatened by grave and imminent danger and require immediate assistance.

**Ditching** The forced landing of an aircraft on water.

**Emergency phase** A generic term meaning, as the case may be, uncertainty phase, alert phase or distress phase.

**Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC).** A rescue coordination centre responsible for both aeronautical and maritime search and rescue operations.

**Joint Rescue Subcentre (JRSC).** A rescue subcentre subordinate to a JRCC with responsibilities for both aeronautical and maritime search and rescue operations.

**Rescue.** An operation to retrieve persons in distress, provide for their initial medical or other needs, and deliver them to a place of safety.

**Rescue coordination centre (RCC).** A unit responsible for promoting efficient organization of search and rescue services and for coordinating the conduct of search and rescue operations within a search and rescue region.

**Rescue subcentre (RSC).** A unit subordinate to a rescue coordination centre, established to complement the latter according to particular provisions of the responsible authorities.

**Search.** An operation normally coordinated by a rescue coordination centre or rescue subcentre using available personnel and facilities to locate persons in distress.

**Search and rescue aircraft.** An aircraft provided with specialized equipment suitable for the efficient conduct of search and rescue missions.

**Search and rescue facility.** Any mobile resource, including designated search and rescue units, used to conduct search and rescue operations.

**Search and rescue service (SAR).** The performance of distress monitoring, communication, coordination and search and rescue functions, initial medical assistance or medical evacuation, through the use of public and private resources, including cooperating aircraft, vessels and other craft and installations.

**Search and rescue region (SRR).** An area of defined dimensions, associated with a rescue coordination centre, within which search and rescue services are provided.

**Search and rescue unit.** A mobile resource composed of trained personnel and provided with equipment suitable for the expeditious conduct of search and rescue operations.

**State of Registry.** The State on whose register an aircraft is entered.

**Uncertainty phase.** A situation wherein uncertainty exists as to the safety of an aircraft and its occupants.

## 22.705 ACRONYMS

**ANSP – Air Navigation Service Provider**  
**CAA – Civil Aviation Authority**  
**JRCC – Joint Rescue Coordination Centre**  
**JRSC- Joint Rescue Subcenter**  
**RCC – Rescue Coordination Centre**  
**RSC – Rescue Subcentre**  
**SRR – Search and Rescue Region**

## 22.707 EXEMPTIONS

- (a) When the SAR organization is not able to comply with any standards specified or referenced in this Part, the SAR organization shall apply to the Authority for exemption or deviation from the relevant standards. Applications shall be supported in writing with the reasons for such exemption or deviation including any safety assessment or other studies undertaken, and where appropriate, an indication of when compliance with the current standards can be expected.
- (b) The Authority may, in writing, exempt an RCC or RSC from compliance with any one or more of the specified provisions of this regulation.
- (c) Before deciding to exempt an RCC or RSC from any requirements of this regulation, the Authority will take into account any relevant considerations relating to the safety of air navigation.
- (d) The validity of any exemption is dependent on the RCC or RSC complying with any condition that the Authority specifies in the exemption as being necessary in the interests of safety of air navigation.
- (e) Any exemption or deviation granted to the SAR organization shall also be recorded in the SAR operations manual. The SAR operations manual shall also contain the details of the exemption or deviation, such as the reason that the exemption or deviation was requested and any resultant limitations or conditions imposed.
- (f) The RCC or RSC must comply with conditions specified in the exemption.

## SUBPART B: ORGANIZATION

### 22.709 SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES

- (a) In accordance with section 9 of the Civil Aviation Act 2016 and of regulation 22 Part G to the Civil Aviation (General) Regulations 2017, the Authority shall designate an organization as the SAR organization for the purposes of Annex 12 to the Convention and of the applicable regional air navigation agreements in force.

- (b) In accordance with section 59 of the Act, the SAR organization designated by the Authority shall establish a Search and Rescue plan either individually or in cooperation with other States to ensure that assistance is rendered to missing aircraft, to aircraft in distress and to rescue occupants and save lives. Such services shall be provided on a 24-hour basis.
- (c) Those portions of the high seas or areas of undetermined sovereignty for which search and rescue services will be established shall be determined on the basis of regional air navigation agreements. The SAR organization, having accepted the responsibility to provide search and rescue services in such areas shall thereafter, individually or in cooperation with other States, arrange for the services to be established and provided in accordance with the provisions of this Part.
- (d) Basic elements of search and rescue services shall include a responsible search and rescue (SAR) organization, organized available resources, communication facilities and a workforce skilled in coordination and operational functions.
- (e) The SAR organization shall establish processes to improve service provision, including the aspects of planning, domestic and international cooperative arrangements and training.
- (f) In providing assistance to aircraft in distress and to survivors of aircraft accidents, the SAR organization shall do so regardless of the nationality or status of such persons or the circumstances in which such persons are found.
- (g) The SAR organization, having accepted responsibility to provide search and rescue services, shall use search and rescue units and other available facilities to assist any aircraft or its occupants that are or appear to be in a state of emergency.
- (h) Where separate aeronautical and maritime RCC or RSC serve the same area, the SAR organization shall ensure the closest practicable coordination between the centres.
- (i) The SAR organization shall facilitate consistency and cooperation between their aeronautical and maritime search and rescue services.
- (j) JRCC's and JRSC's should be established to coordinate aeronautical and maritime search and rescue operations, where practical.

#### **22.711 SEARCH AND RESCUE REGIONS**

- (a) The Authority shall delineate the search and rescue regions within which search and rescue services will be provided in accordance with applicable regional search and rescue agreements. Such regions shall not overlap and neighbouring regions shall be contiguous.
- (b) The Search and rescue region should, in so far as practicable, be coincident with the corresponding flight information region of the Bahamas and, with respect to those areas over the high seas, maritime SRR regions.

#### **22.713 RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRES AND RESCUE SUBCENTRES**

- (a) The Authority shall designate a RCC or a RSC, as appropriate, in its SRR. The Authority may designate a RCC with an associated SRR that, in accordance with regional air navigation agreement, extends over an area greater than its sovereign airspace.
- (b) Where all or part of the airspace of the Bahamas is included within a SRR associated with a RCC in another Contracting State, The Bahamas shall establish a RSC subordinate to the RCC wherever this would improve the efficiency of search and rescue services within its territory.
- (c) Each RCC or, as appropriate, RSC, shall be staffed 24 hours a day by trained personnel proficient in the use of the language used for radiotelephony communications.
- (d) RCC or RSC personnel involved in the conduct of radiotelephony communications shall be proficient in the use of the English language.
- (e) In areas where public telecommunications facilities would not permit persons observing an aircraft in emergency to notify the RCC or RSC concerned directly and promptly, the SAR organization shall designate suitable units of public or private services as alerting posts.

**22.715 SEARCH AND RESCUE COMMUNICATIONS**

- (a) Each RCC shall have means of rapid and reliable two-way communication with:
  - 1) associated air traffic services units;
  - 2) associated RSC;
  - 3) appropriate direction-finding and position-fixing stations;
  - 4) where appropriate, coastal radio stations capable of alerting and communicating with surface vessels in the region;
  - 5) the headquarters of search and rescue units in the region;
  - 6) all maritime RCC in the region and aeronautical, maritime or joint RCC in adjacent regions;
  - 7) a designated meteorological office or meteorological watch office;
  - 8) search and rescue units;
  - 9) alerting posts; and
  - 10) the Cospas-Sarsat Mission Control Centre servicing the SSR.
- (b) Each RSC shall have means of rapid and reliable two-way communication with:
  - 1) adjacent RSC;
  - 2) a meteorological office or meteorological watch office;
  - 3) search and rescue units; and
  - 4) alerting posts.

**22.717 SEARCH AND RESCUE UNITS**

- (a) In accordance with, and as determined by, regional air navigation agreements and appropriate air navigation plans, the SAR organization shall designate as search and rescue units elements of public or private services suitably located and equipped for search and rescue operations.
- (b) The SAR organization shall designate, as parts of the search and rescue plan of operation, elements of public or private services that do not qualify as search and rescue units but are nevertheless able to participate in search and rescue operations.

**22.719 SEARCH AND RESCUE EQUIPMENT**

- (a) Search and rescue units shall be provided with equipment for locating promptly and for providing adequately, assistance at the scene of an accident.
- (b) Each search and rescue unit shall have means of rapid and reliable two-way communication with other search and rescue facilities engaged in the same operation.
- (c) Each search and rescue aircraft shall be equipped to be able to communicate on the aeronautical distress and on-scene frequencies and on such other frequencies as may be prescribed.
- (d) Each search and rescue aircraft shall be equipped with a device for homing on distress frequencies.
- (e) Each search and rescue aircraft, when used for search and rescue over maritime areas, shall be equipped to be able to communicate with vessels.
- (f) Each search and rescue aircraft, when used for search and rescue over maritime areas shall carry a copy of the *International Code of Signals* to enable it to overcome language difficulties that may be experienced in communicating with ships.
- (g) Unless it is known that there is no need to provide supplies to survivors by air, at least one of the aircraft participating in a search and rescue operation shall carry droppable survival equipment.
- (h) The SAR organization shall locate, at appropriate aerodromes, survival equipment suitably packed for dropping by aircraft.

**22.721 SEARCH AND RESCUE MANUAL**

- (a) The SAR organization shall develop and maintain a search and rescue operations manual. The operations manual shall serve to demonstrate how the SAR organization will comply with the requirements set out in this Part.
- (b) The contents of the operations manual shall include but not limited to the following:
  - a. the information required of the SAR organization as mentioned in this Part; and
  - b. a description of the SAR organization that shows the role, responsibilities and job functions of the search and rescue personnel who are responsible for ensuring the compliance of the organization with the requirements in sub-paragraph (a).
- (c) The SAR organization shall:
  - a. keep the operations manual in a readily accessible form;
  - b. ensure that SAR personnel have ready access to the operations manual; and
  - c. amend the operations manual whenever necessary to keep its content up to date.
- (d) The SAR organization shall submit a copy of the most current operations manual to the Authority.

**SUBPART C: COOPERATION****22.723 COOPERATION BETWEEN STATES**

- (a) The SAR organization shall coordinate its search and rescue efforts with those of neighbouring States.
- (b) The SAR organization shall whenever necessary, coordinate its search and rescue operations with those of neighbouring States especially when these operations are proximate to adjacent search and rescue regions.
- (c) The SAR organization shall, in so 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) Subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by its own authorities, the SAR organization shall permit immediate entry into its territory of search and rescue units of other States for the purpose of searching for the site of aircraft accidents and rescuing survivors of such accidents.
- (e) SAR organizations who wish their search and rescue units to enter the territory of another Contracting State for search and rescue purposes shall transmit a request, giving full details of the projected mission and the need for it, to the RCC or RSC of the State concerned or to such other authority as has been designated by that State.
- (f) Requests for the entry of aircraft, equipment and personnel from other States to engage in search for aircraft in distress or to rescue survivors of aircraft accidents should be transmitted to the RCC or RSC, as appropriate. The RCC or RSC shall:
  - 1) immediately acknowledge the receipt of such a request, and
  - 2) as soon as possible, indicate the conditions, if any, under which the projected mission may be undertaken.
- (g) The SAR organization shall enter into agreements with neighbouring States to strengthen search and rescue cooperation and coordination, setting forth the conditions for entry of each other's search and rescue units into their respective territories. These agreements should also provide for expediting entry of such units with the least possible formalities.
- (h) The SAR organization shall:
  - 1) request from other RCC such assistance, including aircraft, vessels, persons or equipment, as may be needed;
  - 2) grant any necessary permission for the entry of such aircraft, vessels, persons or equipment into its territory; and
  - 3) make the necessary arrangements with the appropriate customs, immigration or other authorities with a view to expediting such entry.
- (i) The SAR organization shall provide, when requested, assistance to other RCC or RSC, including assistance in the form of aircraft, vessels, persons or equipment.
- (j) The SAR organization shall make arrangements for joint training exercises involving their search and rescue units, those of other States and operators, in order to promote search and rescue efficiency.

- (k) The SAR organization should make arrangements for periodic liaison visits by personnel of their RCC and RSC to the centres of neighbouring States.

**22.725 COOPERATION WITH OTHER SERVICES**

- (a) The SAR organization shall arrange for all aircraft, vessels and local services and facilities which do not form part of the search and rescue organization to cooperate fully with the latter in search and rescue and to extend any possible assistance to the survivors of aircraft accidents.
- (b) The SAR organization shall ensure the closest practicable coordination between the relevant aeronautical and maritime authorities to provide for the most effective and efficient search and rescue services.
- (c) The SAR organization shall ensure that their search and rescue services cooperate with those responsible for investigating accidents and with those responsible for the care of those who suffered from the accident.
- (d) To facilitate accident investigation, rescue units should, when practicable, be accompanied by persons qualified in the conduct of aircraft accident investigations.
- (e) The SAR organization shall designate a search and rescue point of contact for the receipt of Cospas-Sarsat distress data.

**22.727 DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION**

- (a) The SAR organization shall publish and disseminate all information necessary for the entry of search and rescue units of other States into its territory or, alternatively include this information in search and rescue service arrangements.
- (b) When such information could benefit the provision of search and rescue services, the SAR organization should make available, through the rescue coordination centres or rescue subcentre or other agencies, information regarding their search and rescue plans of operation.
- (c) The SAR organization should, to the extent desirable and practicable, disseminate information to the general public and emergency response authorities regarding actions to be taken when there is reason to believe that an aircraft's emergency situation may become cause for public concern or require a general emergency response.

**SUBPART D: PREPARATORY MEASURES**

**22.729 PREPARATORY INFORMATION**

- (a) Each RCC, or as appropriate RSC, shall have readily available at all times up-to-date information concerning the following in respect of its search and rescue region:
  - 1) search and rescue units and alerting posts;
  - 2) air traffic services units;
  - 3) means of communication that may be used in search and rescue operations;
  - 4) addresses and telephone numbers of all operators, or their designated representatives, engaged in operations in the region; and

- 5) any other public and private resources including medical and transportation facilities that are likely to be useful in search and rescue.
- (b) Each RCC or as appropriate, RSC, should have readily available all other information of interest to search and rescue, including information regarding:
    - 1) the locations, call signs, hours of watch, and frequencies of all radio stations likely to be employed in support of search and rescue operations;
    - 2) the locations and hours of watch of services keeping radio watch, and the frequencies guarded;
    - 3) locations where supplies of droppable emergency and survival equipment are stored; and
    - 4) objects which it is known might be mistaken for unlocated or unreported wreckage, particularly if viewed from the air.
  - (c) Each RCC or as appropriate, RSC, whose search and rescue region includes maritime areas shall have readily accessible information regarding the position, course and speed of ships within such areas that may be able to provide assistance to aircraft in distress and information on how to contact them.
  - (d) The SAR organization shall, individually or in cooperation with other States, either establish ship reporting systems in cooperation with maritime authorities or arrange communication links with Amver or regional ship reporting systems to facilitate search and rescue operations at sea. Amver is a cooperative international ship reporting system with worldwide coverage that is available for interrogation by all rescue coordination centres. A number of States also operate regional ship reporting systems.

#### 22.731 PLANS OF OPERATION

- (a) Each RCC or as appropriate, RSC shall prepare detailed plans of operation for the conduct of search and rescue operations within its search and rescue region.
- (b) Search and rescue plans of operations should be developed jointly with representatives of the operators and other public or private services that may assist in providing search and rescue services or benefit from them, taking into account that the number of survivors could be large.
- (c) The plans of operation shall specify arrangements for the servicing and refuelling, to the extent possible, of aircraft, vessels and vehicles employed in search and rescue operations, including those made available by other States.
- (d) The search and rescue plans of operation shall contain details regarding actions to be taken by those persons engaged in search and rescue, including:
  - 1) the manner in which search and rescue operations are to be conducted in the search and rescue region;
  - 2) the use of available communication systems and facilities;
  - 3) the actions to be taken jointly with other RCC;
  - 4) the methods of alerting en-route aircraft and ships at sea;
  - 5) the duties and prerogatives of persons assigned to search and rescue;
  - 6) the possible redeployment of equipment that may be necessitated by meteorological or other conditions;
  - 7) the methods for obtaining essential information relevant to search and rescue operations, such as weather reports and forecasts, appropriate NOTAM, etc.;
  - 8) the methods for obtaining, from other RCC, such assistance, including aircraft, vessels, persons or equipment, as may be needed;

- 9) the methods for assisting distressed aircraft being compelled to ditch to rendezvous with surface craft;
  - 10) the methods for assisting search and rescue or other aircraft to proceed to aircraft in distress; and
  - 11) cooperative actions to be taken in conjunction with air traffic services units and other authorities concerned to assist aircraft known or believed to be subject to unlawful interference.
- (e) Search and rescue plans of operation shall be integrated with airport emergency plans to provide for rescue services in the vicinity of aerodromes including, for coastal aerodromes, areas of water.

**22.733 SEARCH AND RESCUE UNITS**

- (a) Each search and rescue unit shall:
  - 1) be cognizant of all parts of the plans of operation prescribed in 22.670 that are necessary for the effective conduct of its duties; and
  - 2) keep the RCC or as appropriate the RSC informed of its preparedness.
- (b) Each Search and Rescue Unit shall:
  - 1) maintain in readiness the required number of search and rescue facilities; and
  - 2) maintain adequate supplies of rations, medical stores, signaling devices and other survival and rescue equipment.

**22.735 TRAINING AND EXERCISES**

- (a) To achieve and maintain maximum efficiency in search and rescue, the SAR organization shall provide for regular training of their search and rescue personnel and arrange appropriate search and rescue exercises.
- (b) Training in aeronautical SAR shall consist of theoretical and practical knowledge of aeronautical SAR operations. The following subject areas should be included to demonstrate a level of knowledge appropriate to conduct aeronautical SAR operations in the RCC or RSC:
  - a. General SAR procedures
    - i. ICAO Annex 12 and International provisions
    - ii. SAR organization
    - iii. SAR resources
    - iv. SAR communications
    - v. SAR operating procedures
    - vi. RCCs and RSC's
    - vii. Meteorological information for SAR
    - viii. Conduct of search and air search patterns
    - ix. Rescue of survivors
  - b. Aeronautical SAR procedures
    - i. Aeronautical SAR organization
    - ii. Aeronautical RCC administration
    - iii. Basic navigation - Search areas (sea and land)
    - iv. Search techniques (sea and land)
    - v. Plotting exercises
  - c. SAR exercises (SAREX)
    - i. A paper SAREX to coordinate, direct and control aeronautical SAR operations under simulated SAR situations.

- (c) The SAR organization shall ensure that SAR personnel maintain a basic level of competency in recurrent / refresher training that includes knowledge about updates in ICAO provisions and other provisions pertaining to SAR.
- (d) The SAR organization shall maintain training records for their SAR personnel.

**22.737 WRECKAGE**

- (a) The SAR organization should ensure that wreckage resulting from aircraft accidents within the territory of The Bahamas or, in the case of accidents on the high seas or in areas of undetermined sovereignty, within the search and rescue regions for which it is responsible, is removed, obliterated or charted following completion of the accident investigation, if its presence might constitute a hazard or confuse subsequent search and rescue operations.

**PART E: OPERATING PROCEDURES**

**22.739 INFORMATION CONCERNING EMERGENCIES**

- (a) Any authority or any element of the SAR organization having reason to believe that an aircraft is in an emergency shall give immediately all available information to the RCC, or as appropriate the RSC concerned.
- (b) RCC or as appropriate the RSC shall, immediately upon receipt of information concerning aircraft in emergency, evaluate such information and assess the extent of the operation required.
- (c) When information concerning aircraft in emergency is received from other sources than air traffic services units, the RCC or as appropriate the RSC shall determine to which emergency phase the situation corresponds and shall apply the procedures applicable to that phase.

**22.741 PROCEDURES FOR RCC's / RSC DURING EMERGENCY PHASES**

- (a) Uncertainty phase - Upon the occurrence of an uncertainty phase, the RCC or RSC, shall cooperate to the utmost with air traffic services units and other appropriate agencies and services in order that incoming reports may be speedily evaluated.
- (b) Alert phase - Upon the occurrence of an alert phase the RCC or RSC shall immediately alert search and rescue units and initiate any necessary action.
- (c) Distress phase - Upon the occurrence of a distress phase, the RCC or RSC shall:
  - 1) immediately initiate action by search and rescue units in accordance with the appropriate plan of operation;
  - 2) ascertain the position of the aircraft, estimate the degree of uncertainty of this position, and, on the basis of this information and the circumstances, determine the extent of the area to be searched;
  - 3) notify the operator, where possible, and keep the operator informed of developments;

- 4) notify other RCC's, the help of which seems likely to be required, or which may be concerned in the operation;
  - 5) notify the associated air traffic services unit, when the information on the emergency has been received from another source;
  - 6) request at an early stage such aircraft, vessels, coastal stations and other services not specifically included in the appropriate plan of operation and able to assist to:
    - i. maintain a listening watch for transmissions from the aircraft in distress, survival radio equipment or an ELT;  
*Note: The frequencies contained in the specifications for ELTs are 121.5 MHz and 406 MHz.*
    - ii. assist the aircraft in distress as far as practicable; and
    - iii. inform the RCC of any developments;
  - 7) from the information available, draw up a detailed plan of action for the conduct of the search and/or rescue operation required and communicate such plan for the guidance of the authorities immediately directing the conduct of such an operation;
  - 8) amend as necessary, in the light of evolving circumstances, the detailed plan of action;
  - 9) notify the appropriate accident investigation authorities; and
  - 10) notify the State of Registry of the aircraft.
- (d) The order in which these actions are described shall be followed unless circumstances dictate otherwise.
- (e) In the event that an emergency phase is declared in respect of an aircraft whose position is unknown and may be in one of two or more search and rescue regions, the following shall apply:
- 1) When a RCC or RSC is notified of the existence of an emergency phase and is unaware of other centres taking appropriate action, it shall assume responsibility for initiating suitable action in accordance with 22.695 and confer with neighbouring RCC's or RSC's with the objective of designating one RCC or RSC to assume responsibility forthwith.
  - 2) Unless otherwise decided by common agreement of the RCC or RSC concerned, the RCC or RSC to coordinate search and rescue action shall be the centre responsible for:
    - i. the region in which the aircraft last reported its position; or
    - ii. the region to which the aircraft was proceeding when its last reported position was on the line separating two search and rescue regions; or
    - iii. the region to which the aircraft was destined when it was not equipped with suitable two-way radio communication or not under obligation to maintain radio communication; or the region in which the distress site is located as identified by the Cospas-Sarsat system.
  - 3) After declaration of the distress phase, the rescue coordination centre or rescue subcentre with overall coordination responsibility shall inform all other centres that may become involved in the operation of all the circumstances of the emergency and subsequent developments. Likewise, all rescue coordination centres or rescue subcentres becoming aware of any information pertaining to the emergency shall inform the rescue coordination centre or rescue subcentre that has overall responsibility.
- (f) Whenever applicable, the rescue coordination centre or rescue subcentre responsible for search and rescue action shall forward to the air traffic services unit serving the flight information region in which the aircraft is operating, information of the search and rescue action initiated, in order that such information can be passed to the aircraft.

**22.743 PROCEDURES WHERE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPERATIONS EXTENDS TO TWO OR MORE CONTRACTING STATES**

- (a) Where the conduct of operations over the entire search and rescue region is the responsibility of more than one Contracting State, each involved State shall take action in accordance with the relevant plan of operations when so requested by the RCC of the region.

**22.745 PROCEDURES FOR AUTHORITIES IN THE FIELD**

- (a) The SAR organization immediately directing the conduct of operations or any part thereof shall:
  - 1) give instructions to the units under their direction and inform the RCC or RSC of such instructions; and
  - 2) keep the RCC or RSC informed of developments.

**22.747 PROCEDURES FOR RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRES — TERMINATION AND SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS**

- (a) Search and rescue operations shall continue, when practicable, until all survivors are delivered to a place of safety or until all reasonable hope of rescuing survivors has passed.
- (b) The responsible RCC or RSC shall normally be responsible for determining when to discontinue search and rescue operations.
- (c) When a search and rescue operation has been successful or when a RCC or RSC considers, or is informed, that an emergency no longer exists, the emergency phase shall be cancelled, the search and rescue operation shall be terminated and any authority, facility or service that has been activated or notified shall be promptly informed.
- (d) If a search and rescue operation becomes impracticable and the RCC or RSC concludes that there might still be survivors, the centre shall temporarily suspend on-scene activities pending further developments and shall promptly inform any authority, facility or service which has been activated or notified. Relevant information subsequently received shall be evaluated and search and rescue operations resumed when justified and practicable.

**22.749 PROCEDURES AT THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT**

- (a) When multiple facilities are engaged in search and rescue operations on-scene, the RCC or RSC shall designate one or more units on-scene to coordinate all actions to help ensure the safety and effectiveness of air and surface operations, taking into account facility capabilities and operational requirements.
- (b) When a pilot-in-command observes that either another aircraft or a surface craft is in distress, the pilot shall, if possible and unless considered unreasonable or unnecessary:
  - 1) keep the craft in distress in sight until compelled to leave the scene or advised by the RCC or RSC that it is no longer necessary;
  - 2) determine the position of the craft in distress;

- 3) as appropriate, report to the RCC, RSC or air traffic services unit as much of the following information as possible:
    - i. type of craft in distress, its ID and condition;
    - ii. its position, expressed in geographical or grid coordinates or in distance and true bearing from a distinctive landmark or from a radio navigation aid;
    - iii. time of observation expressed in hours and minutes Coordinated Universal Time (UTC);
    - iv. number of persons observed;
    - v. whether persons have been seen to abandon the craft in distress;
    - vi. on-scene weather conditions;
    - vii. apparent physical condition of survivors;
    - viii. apparent best ground access route to the distress site; and
  - 4) act as instructed by the RCC or RSC or the air traffic services unit.
- (c) If the first aircraft to reach the scene of an accident is not a search and rescue aircraft, it shall take charge of on scene activities of all other aircraft subsequently arriving until the first search and rescue aircraft reaches the scene of the accident. If, in the meantime, such aircraft are unable to establish communication with the appropriate RCC, RSC or air traffic services unit, it shall, by mutual agreement, hand over to an aircraft capable of establishing and maintaining such communications until the arrival of the first search and rescue aircraft.
- (d) When it is necessary for an aircraft to convey information to survivors or surface rescue units, and two-way communication is not available, it shall, if practicable, drop communication equipment that would enable direct contact to be established, or convey the information by dropping a hard copy message.
- (e) When a ground signal has been displayed, the aircraft shall indicate whether the signal has been understood or not by the means described in sub-paragraph (d) or, if this is not practicable, by making the appropriate visual signal.
- (f) When it is necessary for an aircraft to direct a surface craft to the place where an aircraft or surface craft is in distress, the aircraft shall do so by transmitting precise instructions by any means at its disposal. If no radio communication can be established, the aircraft shall make the appropriate visual signal.

**22.751 PROCEDURES FOR A PILOT-IN-COMMAND INTERCEPTING A DISTRESS TRANSMISSION**

- (a) Whenever a distress transmission is intercepted by a pilot-in-command of an aircraft, the pilot shall, if feasible:
- 1) acknowledge the distress transmission;
  - 2) record the position of the craft in distress if given;
  - 3) take a bearing on the transmission;
  - 4) inform the appropriate RCC or RSC or air traffic services unit of the distress transmission, giving all available information; and
  - 5) at the pilot's discretion, while awaiting instructions, proceed to the position given in the transmission.

**22.753 SEARCH AND RESCUE SIGNALS**

- (a) The air-to-surface and surface-to-air visual signals when used, have the meaning indicated therein. They shall be used only for the purpose indicated and no other signals likely to be confused with them shall be used.
- (b) Upon observing any of the signals in the aircraft shall take such action as may be required by the interpretation of the signal.

**22.755 MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS**

- (a) Each RCC or RSC should keep a record of the operational efficiency of the search and rescue organization in its region.
- (b) Each RCC or RSC should prepare appraisals of actual search and rescue operations in its region. These appraisals should comprise any pertinent remarks on the procedures used and on the emergency and survival equipment, and any suggestions for improvement of those procedures and equipment. Those appraisals which are likely to be of interest to other States should be submitted to ICAO for information and dissemination as appropriate.

*End of Schedule 22 – Part G*