



ICAO/IMO JWG ON HARMONIZATION OF
AERONAUTICAL AND MARITIME SAR
14th session
Agenda item 4.3

ICAO/IMO JWG 14-WP/22
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ENGLISH ONLY

SAR OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES, PROCEDURES AND TECHNIQUES:

Medical assistance in SAR services

**PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE WORKING PAPER No. 9
PRESENTED BY AUSTRALIA AND RELATED
TO PROVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO SHIPS AT SEA**

(Submitted by Italy)

SUMMARY

Executive summary:	This document contains proposal of amendments to the Working Paper 9 related to Agenda item 4.3 presented by Australia to the 14 th ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR
Action to be taken:	Paragraph 2, note its amendments and take action as appropriate
Related documents:	MSC CIRC. 960; MSC.1/Circ 1218; COMSAR 11/6 Appendix G DOC 9731 (Australia), ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR/14-WP/9, COMSAR 11/18 and IAMSAR MANUAL VOLUME I – VOLUME III

INTRODUCTION

1. The attached document, starting by the outcome of COMSAR 11/6 and by the Working Paper (ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR/14-WP/9 24/07/07) presented by Australia, is the result of a close examination and cooperation between Italian Coast Guard MRCC - Rome and Centro Internazionale Radio-Medico CIRM.

FRAMEWORK OF THE DOCUMENT

2. The document is composed of two Annexes.

2.1 Annex 1 proposes amendments to the Attachment B (Annex 1) of Working Paper (ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR/14-WP/9) presented by Australia, with the comments enclosed in each paragraph.

2.2 Annex II proposes amendments to the contents of the IAMSAR Volume III Section 4 (MEDICO and MEDEVAC).

2.3 In this section the following items are added/amended:

- new paragraph “MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO VESSELS”, reporting:
 - a guideline for the Ship’s Master, to contact the Telemedical Assistance Service (TMAS) when a medical problem occurs;
 - the importance of the satellite communications for medical advice and/or medical assistance;
- amendments to MEDICO paragraph regarding updates of the points of contact of CIRM (according to Global SAR Plan);
- amendments to MEDEVAC paragraph, in order to give more pertinent information to MRCC about the ship involved in medical problem; and
- new Appendix F, which is a form for Ship’s Master to advance medical assistance request to TMAS/MRCC.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP

3. The JWG is invited to consider the afore-mentioned document, and take action as appropriate.

ANNEX 1

PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENTS TO ANNEX 1 OF WORKING PAPER (ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR/14-WP/9) PRESENTED BY AUSTRALIA

APPENDIX () TO VOLUME I, IAMSAR MANUAL

SAMPLE CONTRACT BETWEEN RCC AND TMAS FOR THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO MASTERS OF SHIPS AT SEA

The following paragraphs are amended as reported (**new text is underlined, deletions ~~struck through~~**):

Paragraph 1.1.2

- 1.1.2** The RCC is responsible for search and rescue services which include the ~~provision~~ organization of medical advice and assistance. The RCC has designated one or more providers of this service. (*Organization*) at (*Location*) is one of the designated (*Country*) Telemedical Assistance Service (TMAS).

Paragraph 1.2.4.1 (c. f.)

- 1.2.4.1** c. Arranging of surface (water and land) or air assets necessary to conduct a MEDEVAC to achieve delivery to the medical facility ~~determined~~ recommended by the TMAS. As an integral part of the evacuation, the RCC will, where possible, organize to have paramedics on board the recovery platform;
- f. ~~Liaising with the provider of the surface or air assets for invoicing and payment; and~~

Paragraph 2.4.3

- 2.4.3** Where the ship's Master requires a MEDEVAC, ~~either by his own decision or as a result of consultation with the TMAS, and need of it is supported by the TMAS,~~ the ship's Master may communicate with the RCC directly or through a Maritime Communications Station without further reference to the TMAS. In this event the Maritime Communications Station or the RCC will ascertain the:
- patients condition, name and nationality ;
 - Master's name and nationality;
 - Vessel name, flag and IMO number;
 - Call sign;
 - Ship's position;
 - Ship owner –operator and his country;
 - Nearest port and ETA.

Paragraph 2.4.4 (g.)

- 2.4.4** g. Notify the TMAS and the Maritime Communications Station of the outcome of the MEDEVAC on completion of the event.

3.2.2 ~~Fax or telex Requests for Medical Assistance~~ passed to a Maritime Communications Station will normally be relayed to the TMAS over the telephone and replies should be sent through the appropriate Maritime Communications Station. ~~If a fax is going to be sent to the TMAS, by the RCC, a Maritime Communications Station or a Land Earth station, the initiator must contact the TMAS by telephone to advise that the fax is being sent. In some circumstances, the fax number to be used may be different from the normal contact fax number. Accordingly, when the initiator calls to advise that a fax is to be sent, check the fax number.~~

Paragraph 3.3.1

3.3.1 Communications between the TMAS and the RCC must be conducted by telephone or facsimile and or the most appropriate and reliable telecommunication system.

TMAS contact details:	Telephone	Medical line
		General line
		Facsimile (Check with TMAS prior to transmission)
		Email

RCC contact details:	Telephone
	Alternate
	Facsimile
	Email

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TMAS-TMAS Medical Information Exchange Form

At end of form, after the paragraph SHIP and before “ *** ” add the word “Signature” and the space to put it.

ANNEX II

PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE IAMSAR MANUAL VOLUME III

Change the paragraph Section 4 On-Board Emergencies - MEDICO and MEDEVAC- as follows (new text is underlined, deletions ~~struck through~~).

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO VESSELS

Medical assistance is primarily based on direct communication between the ships and the TMAS.

- The Master of ship, which is ultimately responsible for the health and safety of crew and passengers on board, when a medical problem occurs should contact:
 1. his designated national TMAS, when established, which can perform remote consultation in his language. In order to facilitate and enhance the planning of the medical aspects of the SAR operation involving medical assistance at sea, all available medical information collected by the TMAS that has carried out a remote consultation will be transferred to the TMAS attached to the responsible RCC. Everything must be done to avoid a second remote consultation by the second TMAS, or
 2. the TMAS partner of the MRCC concerned, of the SRR involved, or
 3. the RCC responsible for SAR operations in the search and rescue region (SRR) concerned, in order to establish a contact with appropriate TMAS or medical advice available organization, or
 4. the Maritime Communication Station for effective communication interface between the ship and the TMAS, the ship and the RCC.

Inmarsat Communications

The various Inmarsat systems offer two abridged codes (Special Access Codes – SAC) 32 and 38, which can be used for medical advice or medical assistance at sea through telephone, fax or telex using satellite communications.

- SAC 32 is used to obtain medical advice. The Land Earth Station will provide a direct link with the TMAS when this code is used.
- SAC 38 is used when the condition of an injured or sick person on board a ship justifies medical assistance (evacuation to shore or services of a doctor on board). This code allows the call to be routed to the associated RCC.

MEDICO

- MEDICO messages request or transmit medical advice from and to a vessel at sea. They should include the Telemedical Assistance Service – TMAS -, arranged by various medical organizations subject (private or public) to their recognition or designation as official partners of RCCs in the framework of a global system of medical assistance at sea.
- Each MEDICO message may be addressed to RCCs or communications facilities from ships at sea.
- The messages should be prefixed “DHMEDICO” so that communications personnel know to handle them as MEDICO messages.
- The ITU *List of Radiodetermination and Special Service Stations* lists commercial and Government radio stations which provide free medical message service to ships.
 - these messages are normally delivered only to TMAS, hospitals, or other facilities with which SAR authorities or the communications facilities has made prior arrangements.
- SAR services may also provide medical advice either with their own doctors, or via arrangements with doctors outside the SAR organization.
- There are several commercial enterprises which provide international subscription and pay-per-use medical advice to vessels at sea.
 - the best known medical advisory service is Centro Internazionale Radio Medico (CIRM)
 - Headquarter in Rome, Italy
 - ~~Cirm maintains doctors on 24 hour availability~~ Medical service available 24 h a day
 - Provides free medical advice by radio to ships around the world
 - to obtain more information about CIRM services:
 - telephone: +39-06-54223045
 - mobile phone: +39-348-3984229
 - facsimile: +39-06-5923333
 - telex 612068 CIRM 1
 - e-mail telesoccorso@cirm.it
 - web page www.cirm.it
- Replies to messages should indicate the medical facility which provided the medical information.
- In Appendix F is available a Medical Assistance Form for Masters of ships.

Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC)

- If medical evacuations are being considered, the benefits must be weighed against the inherent dangers of such operations to both the person needing assistance and to rescue personnel.
- When medical assistance is required, information as indicated below should be sent to RCC. Other information may be necessary in certain cases.
 - ☐ name of the vessel, flag, IMO number and radio call sign, telephone number
 - ☐ master's name and nationality
 - ☐ ship owner –operator and his country;
 - ☐ position of the vessel, port of destination
 - ☐ estimated time of arrival, course, and speed
 - ☐ patient's name, age, gender, nationality, and language,
 - ☐ patient's respiration, pulse rate, temperature, and blood pressure
 - ☐ location of pain
 - ☐ nature of illness or injury, including apparent cause and related history
 - ☐ symptoms
 - ☐ type, time, form, and amounts of all of medication given
 - ☐ time of last food consumption
 - ☐ ability of patient to eat, drink, walk, or be moved
 - ☐ with accident cases, how the accident occurred
 - ☐ whether the vessel has a medicine chest, and whether a physician or other medically trained person is aboard
 - ☐ whether a suitable clear area is available for helicopter winch operations or landings
 - ☐ name, address, and phone number of vessel's agent
 - ☐ last port of call, next port of call, and ETA to next port of call
 - ☐ communications and homing signal available
 - ☐ additional pertinent remarks
- The final decision about whether it is safe to conduct an evacuation remains ultimately with the person in command of the rescue facility tasked with conducting the evacuation.

APPENDIX F

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AT SEA MASTER - TMAS Medical Information Form

CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL INFORMATION

To: TMAS:
(via MRCC/MCS if necessary:)

Date:/...../..... Time:h..... Physician: Dr.....

PATIENT

Surname: First Name:
Date of Birth:/...../..... Age: Sex: M ☐ F ☐
Nationality: Occupation on board:

MEDICAL CIRCUMSTANCES

<input type="checkbox"/> Illness
<input type="checkbox"/> Accident
<input type="checkbox"/> Poisoning
Since:

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

- ☐ MEDICO
- ☐ MEDEVAC

SHIP

Ship Name: Call Sign:
Type: Flag:
Location: IMO Number:
Master's Name and nationality:
Ship owner-operator and nationality:
Port of Origin: Departure/DTG:
Destination: ETA/DTG:
Ship's telephone number: Ship's e-mail address:

Ship's Master Signature:

— END —