



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

Sixth Meeting of the ICAO Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue Working Group (APSAR/WG/6)

Video Teleconference, 03 – 06 May 2021

**Agenda Item 3: Global update**

**STATUS OF THE COSPAS-SARSAT PROGRAMME**

**ADDENDUM – FALSE ALERT RATE**

(Presented by the Cospas-Sarsat Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

This addendum to Working Paper 05 provides information on false alert rates.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 -

**2. DISCUSSION**

False Alert Rate

2.1 Cospas-Sarsat System Operation Perspective:

$$\text{F.A. Rate} = \frac{\text{False Alerts + Undetermined Alerts World-Wide with Participants' Country Code(s)}}{\text{Estimated Total Number of 406-MHz Beacons with Participants' Country Code(s)}}$$

2.2 **Table 1** shows the 406-MHz false alert rate computed from a Cospas-Sarsat System operation perspective.

Year	ELT	EPIRB	PLB	All Types (Total)
2015	4.2-%	0.7-%	0.4-%	1.1-%
2016	4.20%	0.70%	0.40%	1.06%
2017	4.35%	0.93%	0.43%	1.28%
2018	4.19%	1.00%	0.40%	1.31%
<b>2019</b>	<b>4.50%</b>	<b>0.92%</b>	<b>0.40%</b>	<b>1.28%</b>

**Table 1:** Evolution of the 406-MHz False Alert Rate (Cospas-Sarsat System Operation Perspective) (2015 - 2019)

2.3 During the last three years, the Cospas-Sarsat operation perspective false alert rate for all types of beacons was generally stable.

Anomalies

2.4 A high level of false alert rate (Cospas-Sarsat operational perspective) was provided by the following Cospas-Sarsat Participants:

- ELTs: (greater or equal to 10%) Cyprus<sup>1,2</sup>, Finland, India, the Netherlands, and Peru<sup>1</sup>,
- EPIRBs: (greater or equal to 5%) Argentina, Cyprus<sup>1</sup>, India<sup>1</sup>, Indonesia<sup>1</sup>, Pakistan<sup>2</sup>, Saudi Arabia<sup>1,2</sup>, Turkey<sup>1</sup> and UAE<sup>1</sup>,
- PLBs: (greater or equal to 5%) Argentina<sup>1</sup>, China (P.R. of)<sup>2</sup>, Pakistan<sup>1,2</sup>, Singapore<sup>1</sup>, and UAE.

Note: (1) The same status as in 2018 (2) Low number of alerts detected (<10).

SAR Response Perspective

<b>F.A. Rate</b>	=	$\frac{\text{False Alerts + Undetermined Alerts Transmitted to RCCs/SPOCs in Participants' Service Area}}{\text{Total Number of Alerts Transmitted to RCCs/SPOCs in Participants' Service Area}}$
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2.5 Table 2 shows the evolution of the false alert rate computed from a SAR response perspective. The 406-MHz SAR false alert rates were stable over the past years.

Year	406 MHz (All Types)
<b>2015</b>	96.30%
<b>2016</b>	96.68%
<b>2017</b>	96.75%
<b>2018</b>	96.85%
<b>2019</b>	<b>96.65%</b>

**Table 2:** Evolution of the 406-MHz False Alert Rate (SAR Response Perspective) (2015 - 2019)

2.6 In 2019, the average SAR false alert rate was 96.65%, i.e., about one real alert in 30 alerts received.

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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