



Agenda Item 3: Activities for the development of the air navigation systems/services
3.6 Search and Rescue (SAR)

**PROPOSAL FOR ADOPTION OF EMERGENCY LOCATOR TRANSMITTERS (ELTs) IN 406
MHZ FOR THE SAR SERVICE OF CENTRAL CARIBBEAN STATES**

(Presented by the Rapporteur of the C/CAR SAR Task Force)

SUMMARY

In this working paper recommendations are presented so that the C/CAR States/Territories adopt ELTs in 406 Mhz for the SAR service of the States and Territories of the Central Caribbean.

1. Background

1.1 ICAO has issued an amendment to Annex 6 wherein the requirement for all international transport aircraft including passenger and cargo aircraft to be equipped with emergency locator transmitters (ELT) in 406 MHz for the SAR service is indicated.

2 Analysis

2.1 ELTs at 406 MHz or equivalent have proved to help preparing significant measures so that the aeronautical community, including general aviation, may perform operations within their search and rescue regions.

2.2 Likewise, they ensure that suitable arrangements and the requirements be established and that it is mandatory to fulfill for the register of all the ELT in 406 MHz, these register data are available 24 hours a day in any RCC that might need it and that all the aeronautical RCC's know how to access such register of aircraft data of other States. This means an additional support so that an effective SAR service may be provided at a world-wide level.

2.3 Experience has showed that frequently, when an aircraft descends to the ground or to the sea, be it in remote areas or near airports, danger situation alerts are not received or are incomplete, and very often, unnecessary delays are spent locating the precise site of an accident.

2.4 To that end, it is essential that among the aircraft equipment, emergency locator transmitters (ELT) be included; all aircraft, not only those operating in international flights, should be capable of transmitting in a quickly and reliably fashion alerts in case of danger, at 406 MHz, in accordance with what is stated in Annex 6.

2.5 These alerts should include precise information for the identification of aircraft, providing its exact location and other information that might facilitate to the SAR services the location of an aircraft and saving lives before it is too late.

2.6 ELTs and the COSPAS-SARSAT system, which transmits and process ELT alerts, are exclusively used for SAR purposes. The COSPAS-SARSAT system provides support to aeronautical, ground and maritime SAR service. Therefore, keeping the data base of register for ELT at 406 MHz, and the communications procedures to transmit ELT alerts to aeronautical RCC are responsibility of authorities external to aviation and of organizations not involved with those of the State.

2.7 Recognising that ELTs using 121.5 MHz frequency band to make alerts have serious limitations, and foreseeing an imminent and definite decision to consider that processing those alerts via satellite is over, States should start taking measures to help the aeronautical community to migrate to the use of ELT 406 MHz frequency or another equivalent one.

2.8 Civil aviation authorities should establish that all ELTs at 406 MHz, regardless of the type of aircraft using ELT, be registered; moreover, aeronautical authorities should also ensure that their respective States have settled efficient arrangements at a national or international basis so that all users register their ELTs at 406 MHz and ensure that these data are available to the RCC of any State requiring to respond to these aircraft implied in an emergency.

2.9 Moreover, aeronautical authorities should ensure that they have available primary and reserve means for communication purposes in their aeronautical RCCs in order to be able to receive all the ELT alerts that are originated within their respective SRR.

3 Suggested action.

3.1 It is suggested that the Meeting approve the following actions:

That States and Territories of the Central Caribbean that have not yet done so:

- a) establish that all the international transport aircraft, including the passengers and cargo aircraft carrying out operations in the C/CAR area, be equipped with emergency locator transmitters (ELT) at 406 MHz, in accordance with what is stated in Annex 6, parts I, II and II;
- b) take significant measures so that the aeronautical community, including general aviation, use ELTs at 406 MHz or equivalent;
- c) ensure that the necessary arrangements be established and the requirements of fulfillment for the register of all ELTs at 406 MHz be settled, and that those register data be available 24 hours a day to any RCC that might need it; and

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- d) that all aeronautical RCC may have access to data of register of aircraft of other States that might carry out SAR operations within its search and rescue regions.

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