



International Civil Aviation Organization

**The Second Meeting of the ICAO Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue Task Force
(APSAR/TF/2)**

Singapore, 27 – 30 January 2014

Agenda Item 4: Asia/Pacific and inter-regional SAR planning, coordination and cooperation

406 MHz DISTRESS BEACON REGISTRATION

(Presented by the United States of America)

SUMMARY

This paper is intended to complete action on APSAR/TF Task List item “1/20 Consideration of 406 MHz distress beacon registration consequential amendment awareness”.

Strategic Objectives:

A: *Safety*

C: *Environment protection and sustainable development of air transport*

Global Plan Initiatives:

GPI-9 Situational awareness

GPI-16 Decision support systems and alerting systems

GPI-22 Communication infrastructure

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 APSAR/TF Task List item “1/20 Consideration of 406 MHz distress beacon registration consequential amendment awareness” is based on discussion in paragraph 4.36 of the APSAR/TF/1 Report. The discussion raised the need to ensure States register 406 MHz distress beacons, and, with the register available to both aeronautical and maritime rescue coordination centers (RCCs).

1.2 Annex 10 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, *Aeronautical Communications*, appears to fully address the issues but it does not resolve the difficulty of making State authorities aware that the requirements exist, and it does not provide guidance on how to implement. This is an example of where an operational response by a national SAR authority is often dependent upon prior action by another national authority.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The issues can be associated with the following paragraphs in Annex 10, Volume III Communication Systems, *Chapter 5 Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) for Search and Rescue*:

- a) Chapter 5, paragraph 5.1.8 “States shall make arrangements for a 406 MHz ELT register. Register information regarding the ELT shall be immediately available to search and rescue authorities. States shall ensure that the register is updated whenever necessary.
- b) Chapter 5, paragraph 5.1.9 “ELT register information shall include the following [a long list is provided].

2.2 The need to ensure States register 406 MHz distress beacons, and, that the register is available to both aeronautical and maritime rescue coordination centers RCCs can be associated with Annex 12 – *Search and Rescue*. However, as discussed above, it is Annex 10 which provides the requirement. Whereas Annex 12 is familiar to aeronautical and maritime RCCs and should be held by all RCCs, there are other aeronautical documents which impact SAR but which may not be familiar to all RCCs. For example, ICAO annexes typically are the responsibility of a national aeronautical authority but have sections which support the national SAR authority if the requirements and related provisions are properly implemented. The national SAR authority and the RCC benefit from being aware of such requirements and support from SAR may help the other national authority in implementing the requirements found in documents such as:

- a) *Annex 6 – Operation of Aircraft*: Part I International Transport (cargo and passenger aircraft), Chapter 6 in general and ELT in particular; Part II International General Aviation, Chapter 6 in general and ELT in particular; and Part III Helicopters, Chapter 4;
- b) *Annex 10 – Aeronautical Telecommunications* (discussed above); and
- c) *Annex 14 – Aerodromes*: Chapter 9 regarding aerodrome emergency planning; exercises; and, establishment, testing and assessment at regular intervals of a predetermined response for the specialist rescue services.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) decide if APSAR/TF Task List item “1/20 Consideration of 406 MHz distress beacon registration consequential amendment awareness” can be closed out based on Annex 10, Volume III Communication Systems, *Chapter 5 Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) for Search and Rescue*; and,
- b) discuss which aeronautical documents (or extracts of certain documents) may be appropriate to include in the Asia/Pacific SAR library.

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