



International Civil Aviation Organization

The Third Meeting of the APANPIRG ATM Sub-Group (ATM/SG/3)

Bangkok, Thailand, 03 – 07 August 2015

Agenda Item 6: AOP, MET, AIM, SAR

INTERNATIONAL AERONAUTICAL AND MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE MANUAL

(Presented by the United States of America)

SUMMARY

On 1 July 2016 the 2016 edition of the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual will replace the 2013 edition. States should obtain the 2016 edition in advance of the July 2016 date since the new IAMSAR Manual has extensive updates and new content throughout all three volumes.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual is published jointly by the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). As of May 2015, ICAO and IMO completed the amendment process and announced that the 2016 edition will be published and enter into force on 1 July 2016.

1.2 The three volumes of the IAMSAR Manual is the key guidance publication to assist States in meeting their own search and rescue (SAR) needs, and the obligations they accepted under the Convention on International Civil Aviation and the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue. A new edition is published every three years with the understanding that the older edition is to be replaced by the newest edition.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The 2016 edition of the IAMSAR Manual has extensive updates and new content throughout all three volumes. All changes should be shown in grey shading to enable easy review of the basic updates. The more extensive new content includes two items developed under the ICAO Bangkok Office and one item of high relevance to aeronautical SAR:

- a) Sample SAR agreement as an appendix to Volume I. Intent is to assist States in developing a legal instrument for efficient and effective cooperation and coordination with neighboring States.
- b) Sample SAR coordinating committee agreement as an appendix to Volume I. Intent is to enable a State to attain the whole-of-government approach for smooth cooperation and coordination among its aeronautical and maritime SAR agencies and also civil-military authorities.
- c) “Multiple aircraft SAR operations” guidance in all three volumes. This is particularly useful for aircraft response during a major incident and also when the area may include several nearby FIRs and SAR regions.

2.2 ICAO and the IMO have begun the process to publish the 2016 edition of the IAMSAR Manual so that States can procure them in advance of the 1 July 2016 effective date of entry into force. The IAMSAR Manual will be published in the six official United Nations languages and both ICAO and IMO typically provide a limited number of sets to the respective aeronautical and maritime authority. However, States normally have to procure additional sets to ensure the SAR services have a working copy of the Manual themselves. Sources for this publication could include local bookstores or can be purchased on the ICAO and IMO web sites. Orders can be made with ICAO by email, fax, telephone, or online. ICAO web site is www.icao.int , with “Publications” button on top which opens to page with column on left for “Products and Services Catalogue” or “Shop Online”. The IMO web site is: www.imo.org/ , with “Publications” button on top.

2.3 Each volume of the IAMSAR Manual is written with specific SAR system duties in mind, and can be used as a stand-alone document, or, in conjunction with the other two Manuals, as a means to attain a full view of the SAR system. Depending on the duties assigned, it may be necessary to hold only one, or two or all three volumes. In general, the SAR Coordinator will require all three volumes, the rescue coordination center/SAR mission coordinator should have at least Volumes II and III, and response units may need only Volume III.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to consider encouraging States to obtain and distribute the appropriate number of copies of the 2016 edition of the IAMSAR Manual throughout its SAR service in advance of the 1 July 2016 entry into force date.

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