



International Civil Aviation Organization
Western and Central African Office

**First Meeting of the AFI SAR Services Integration Task Force (ASSI TF/1)
(Dakar, Senegal, 19-20 September 2011)**

Agenda Item 6: Review/update of the deficiencies in the Search and Rescue

Review/update of the deficiencies in the Search and Rescue

(Presented by the Secretariat)

Summary

This paper discusses the status of deficiencies in the SAR field in the AFI Region. The paper recalls that APIRG/17 was of the view that the current list of air navigation deficiencies had limited usefulness, and proposes measures to enhance reporting. The meeting will review a proposal from the ATM/AIM/SAR SG12 meeting in this regard.

Action by the meeting is at **paragraph 3**

References:

APIRG/17 Report
ATS/AIS/SAR SG/12 Report
SP AFI/8 RAN Report

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The definition “deficiency” as approved by the ICAO Council is that:

“a deficiency is a situation where a facility, service or procedure does not comply with a regional air navigation plan approved by the Council, or with related ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices, and which situation has a negative impact on the safety, regularity and/or efficiency of international civil aviation”

1.2 Identification, assessment and reporting of air navigation deficiencies is one of the regular tasks of the ICAO planning and implementation regional groups (PIRGs). However, in order for APIRG to effectively address deficiencies in the AFI Region, adequate information on specific deficiencies should be available.

1.3 The SP AFI/ 8 RAN meeting Rec.6/25 adopted performance objectives for the elimination of Air Navigation Deficiencies in the AFI Region, and called States to develop their national action plans, aligned with the regional performance objective, to eliminate their relevant deficiencies.

2. DISCUSSION

0.1 The APIRG/17 Meeting, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 2 to 6 August 2010 noted that based on currently available information at the Secretariat as of March 2010, most States (40-45) had three or four similar deficiencies in the field of SAR (lack of SAR legislation, lack of SAR agreements, lack of ELT carriage legislation, lack of SAR exercises) all identified between 1991 and 1995. The Group agreed that the existing list of deficiencies was not useful, given the picture reflected by, inter alia, reports from the USOAP audit of AFI States.

0.2 The Group acknowledged that a comprehensive review of the AFI deficiency database is necessary in order to more closely reflect the actual status of deficiencies, and in turn to trigger appropriate measures to resolve such deficiencies. Accordingly, the APIRG/17 formulated the following Conclusion:

APIRG Conclusion 17/100: Elimination Of Air Navigation Deficiencies in the ATM AIS/MAP and SAR fields:

That, in order to facilitate the updating of the deficiency database by the Regional offices, and to foster the elimination of deficiencies in the AFI Region:

- a) APIRG subsidiary bodies and secretariat establish a comprehensive list comprising all air navigation deficiencies consistent with the ICAO definition of deficiency as approved by Council, for necessary attention;*
- b) States and International Organizations (including IATA, IFALPA, IFATCA) are urged to actively contribute towards updating the deficiency database, by providing to the Regional Offices, information on the implementation status of SARPS and Air Navigation Plan (ANP) requirements and;*
- c) States provide copies of action plans developed in pursuant to SP AFI/8 RAN Recommendation 6/25 to the concerned APIRG subsidiary bodies and the Regional Offices.*

0.3 In accordance with this APIRG conclusion, the ATM/AIM/SAR Sub-Group at its twelfth meeting (Dakar, 25-29 July 2011) agreed on an approach to reporting that would guide the parties from whom reports on deficiencies are expected. In this regard the **Appendix A** to this working paper shows the list of deficiencies in the SAR field as considered by the Sub-group, to be used as a reference for minimum

reporting. However, the ATM/AIM/SAR SG12 meeting agreed that this list could still be reviewed and supplementary inputs incorporated if necessary.

0.4 The meeting may wish to discuss the list in **Appendix A**, having in mind that a balance should be established between over-reporting which could make prioritizing difficult, and little or no reporting; both of which could defeat the purpose of identifying the deficiencies and the ability to find solutions.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING:

The Sub-Group is invited to:

- a) note the information in this working paper
- b) review and amend the proposed list of SAR deficiencies for reporting

MINIMUM DEFICIENCIES REPORTING LIST

SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR)								
Item No	Deficiencies				Corrective Action			
	ICAO Reference Document & GPIs	Description	Date first reported	Remarks/ Impact of non-implementation	Action by States	Action taken/planned by State (including timelines/target dates)	Identified implementation impediment and action thereon	Status
1.	[Annex 12, Chapter 3] AFI/7 Rec. 6/3	Lack of Search and Rescue Agreements between neighboring States		Lack of SAR agreements can be detrimental to safety of persons in distress where searches overlap national boundaries.				
2.	[Annex 12, Section 4.3]	Search and rescue units		Lack of adequately trained search and rescue units and adequate survival and medical supplies can seriously affect the conduct and outcome of SAR operation				
3.	[Annex 12, Section 4.4]	Search and rescue exercises		Lack of regular training of search and rescue personnel and conduct of regular search and rescue exercises can prevent achievement of maximum efficiency in search and rescue operation.				

MINIMUM DEFICIENCIES REPORTING LIST

Appendix X

TEMPLATE

4.	AFI/7 Rec. 6/1 AFI/7 Rec. 6/2	Satellite aided search and rescue		Lack of implementation will result in difficulty in detection, identification and location of activated 406 Mhz ELTs and loss of valuable time for SAR				
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