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COMSAR/Circ.27
12 October 2001

**DATA FORMAT FOR A NEW COMBINED SAR.2 AND SAR.3
CIRCULAR CONCERNING INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT
AVAILABILITY OF SAR SERVICES**

1 The Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR), at its fifth session (11 to 15 December 2000), agreed to a new data format combining the information contained in SAR.2 and SAR.3 circulars concerning SAR services.

2 In addition, COMSAR 5 agreed that the new data format, given at annex, should be included in the new IMO web site and disseminated, as widely as possible.

3 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-fourth session (30 May to 8 June 2001) endorsed the action taken by COMSAR 5 and, being advised that an in-house electronic chart information system, which was still under development, could provide an easy exchange of geo-referenced information such as databases related to the GMDSS Master Plan and global SAR plan between multiple users and would increase the efficiency and service capabilities of the Secretariat, encouraged the further development of the system.

4 Member Governments are invited to provide, in accordance with the annexed data format, the required updated information electronically, as far as possible, to expedite the compilation of the information concerning the current availability of SAR services.

ANNEX

DRAFT FORMAT FOR NEW COMBINED SAR.2 & SAR 3 CIRCULARS

1	Country National responsible Authority for Maritime SAR	
2	Date of submission	
3	Information provider	
4	SDP (SAR data provider(s))/ Type of data	
5	Name of centre(s) MRCC/MRSC/JRCC/JRSC	
6	MMSI-call sign-VHF voices call sign	
7	Landline communications	
8	Associated CRSs (if needed)	
9	Associated or nearest Inmarsat LES	
10	Associated COSPAS-SARSAT MCC OR SPOC	
11	Associated ARCC (if not a JRCC)	
12	Arrangements for obtaining telemedical advice	
13	Types of SAR facilities normally available	
14	Limits of the area for which the Centre is responsible (P)	
15	Remarks	

Appendix 1

GUIDE TO THE DRAFTING OF INFORMATION REQUESTED ON SAR SERVICES

Line 1

Country

National responsible Authority for Maritime SAR

State here postal address, telephone, fax numbers, e-mail, URL, etc, of the national responsible Authority, Administration or Service co-ordinator of the aeronautical/maritime rescue organization.

Line 2

Date of submission

State here the date of submission.

Line 3

Information provider

State the provider of the information if other than the responsible Authority.

Line 4

SDP (SAR data provider(s))

SDP is a source for a rescue co-ordination centre to contact to obtain data to support search and rescue operations, including emergency information from communication equipment registration databases, ship reporting systems and environmental data systems (e.g., weather or sea current).

State here the name of the national body able to provide the RCC with the identities of ships under their flag corresponding to the indicators or numbers given in the distress message.

If the SDP is not an RCC, state here the means (as for an RCC) of contacting it.

If the SDP is an RCC, add the words "*see below*" when it is given on the same or a following page, or exceptionally "*see annex... page...*" when the RCC acting as SDP is not located in the same search and rescue region.

Line 5

MRCC/MRSC/JRCC/JRSC

Official international designation of the centre, formed of the appropriate acronym (MRCC/MRSC/JRCC/JRSC see below) followed by its location (latitude/longitude).

MRCC and MRSC designated maritime rescue centres.

JRCC and JRSC designated joint aeronautical/maritime rescue centres.

Sub-centres (MRSC and JRSC) should show in brackets the MRCC and JRCC to which they are linked.

Line 6

MMSI - call sign - VHF voice call sign

Only for RCCs which receive distress calls directly.

Line 7

Landline communications

This line should contain the numbers or signs to be used operationally for all land communications (i.e. used for communication with correspondents on land), used in rescue centres: public telephone, fax, telex, AFTN, e-mail, Inmarsat ship earth stations, etc.

Public telephone or fax numbers must be those used for a call **from abroad**.

Line 8

Associated CRSs (if needed)

Only include here call signs and MMSI of coastal radio stations associated with RCC in the GMDSS to receive distress calls on dedicated HF distress frequencies, 2187.5 kHz and channel 70 DSC **when RCCs do not receive such calls directly**.

Line 9

Associated or nearest Inmarsat LES

Only the name of the station should be given.

Line 10

Associated COSPAS-SARSAT MCC or SPOC

If the RCC is directly served by the mission control centre (MCC) for the service area where it is located, give the MCC. If the RCC is served via an SAR point of contact (SPOC) acting as a relay for a given country, give the SPOC. In both cases, **only give the name** of the MCC or SPOC.

Line 11

Associated ARCC (if not a JRCC)

State **only the official designation**.

Line 12

Arrangements for obtaining telemedical advice

Only the **name** of one of the telemedical centres described in accordance with Appendix 2 to this circular should be shown here.

Line 13

Type of SAR facilities normally available

These should be shown **only by the official abbreviations below**, without lists, characteristics or number of units.

Mobile units engaged in search and rescue are divided into four categories:

Surface units, to be classified according to the two types common to the IMO and ICAO as follows:

- * RB: rescue boat: short-range coastal and/or river craft; and
- * RV: rescue vessel: long-range sea-going craft.

Aircraft, to be classified according to the eight types common to IMO and ICAO as follows:

- * SRG: short-range aircraft: aircraft with a radius of action of 150 nautical miles, plus half an hour search time remaining;
- * MRG: medium-range aircraft: aircraft with a radius of action of 400 nautical miles, plus 2.5 hours search time remaining;
- * LRG: long-range aircraft: aircraft with a radius of action of 750 nautical miles, plus 2.5 hours search time remaining;
- * VLR: very long-range aircraft: aircraft with a radius of action of 1000 nautical miles, plus 2.5 hours search time remaining;
- * ELR: extra long-range aircraft: aircraft with a radius of action of 1500 nautical miles, plus 2.5 hours search time remaining;
- * HEL-L: Helicopter, light: helicopter with the capacity to evacuate a maximum of 5 persons and radius of action for SAR purposes of up to 185 km (100 nm);
- * HEL-M: Helicopter, medium: helicopter with the capacity to evacuate a maximum of 15 persons and radius of action for SAR purposes of from 185 to 370 km (100-200 nm); and
- * HEL-H: Helicopter, heavy: helicopter with the capacity to evacuate more than 15 persons and radius of action for SAR purposes of more than 370 km (200 nm).

Ground Search Units (GSU) along the coast: these units are able to cover the coast when sea or air rescue methods are inappropriate. If necessary, they may subsequently call on aeronautical or maritime rescue units.

Supplementary units for special purposes, capable of being embarked on nautical units or aircraft:

- * Medical Assistance Unit (MAU);
- * Underwater Intervention Unit (UIU), capable of rescue to a depth of 40 metres or Deep Underwater Intervention Unit (DUIU) over 40 metres;
- * Fire-Fighting Unit (FFU). fire-fighting units should be regarded as rescue units in that, in some circumstances, it may be useful to fight a fire either to allow time for evacuation or to prevent the evacuation being more dangerous; and
- * Ice Rescue Unit: units equipped and trained to carry out rescues in ice fields.

Line 14

Limits of the area for which the centre is responsible (P)

Description of limits of the search and rescue area of responsibility (latitude/longitude). State here “P” if the information provided is provisional and/or subject to agreement(s).

Line 15

Remarks

State briefly on this line any other useful information directly linked to the conduct of search and rescue operations.

Appendix 2**Information on Telemedical Maritime Advice Services (TMAS)**

1	Usual name of the centre	
2	Postal address	
3	Landline communications	
4	Associated CRSs	
5	Associated MRCCs or JRCCs	
6	Possible consultation languages	
7	Remarks	

Guide to the drafting of information requested on Telemedical Maritime Advice Services (TMAS) associated with RCC

Important note: only medical centres which satisfy the following three conditions should be included in this list:

- they are **continuously staffed**;
- they have personnel **trained** both in **telemedical advice** and treatment of accidents and sickness **on board ship**; and
- they have been **designated** by a **competent Authority**.

Line 1

Usual name of the centre

A name of the centre and its location (latitude/longitude) should be provided.

Line 2

Postal address

TMAS must be accessible by mail for documents which cannot be transmitted by any other means.

Line 3

Landline communications

This line should contain the numbers or signs to be used operationally for all land communications (i.e. used for communication with correspondents on land), used in centres: public telephone, fax, telex, e-mail, Inmarsat ship earth stations, URL, etc.

Public telephone or fax numbers must be those used for a call **from abroad**.

Line 4

Associated CRSs (if any)

State only the **name** of the station

Line 5

Associated MRCCs or JRCCs

State only the **official designation** as shown in this circular.

Line 6

Possible consultation languages

Line 7

Remarks

State briefly on this line any other useful information directly linked to the activity of the centre, and, if applicable, the States, **other** than the one where the centre is located, whose competent Authorities have designated the centre as a TMAS.