

REGULATION

On the Control of the Search and Rescue In the Search and Rescue Region of Iceland For a Maritime- and Aeronautical Rescue

Chapter I

General Provisions

Article 1

Scope and Objective

This regulation deals with the Control of Search and Rescue in the Search and Rescue Region of Iceland for mariners and aircrafts as they are defined at each given time.

The objective of the regulation is to establish a co-ordinated central administration for Search and Rescue in the Maritime and Aeronautical Region of Iceland in accordance with the international obligation that Iceland has taken on in this field.

Article 2

The Search and Rescue Region

The Search and Rescue Region of Iceland for Mariners and aircraft is demarcated at each given time in accordance with international obligations that Iceland has taken on and have been advertised within the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

The Search and Rescue Region is demarcated by the following coordinates:

73° 00'N, 20°00'W

73° 00'N, 00° 00'W

61° 00'N, 00° 00'W

61° 00'N, 30°00'V

58° 30'N, 30°00'W

58° 30'N, 43°00'W

63° 30'N, 39°00'W

70° 00'N, 20°00'W

73° 00'N, 20°00'W

Article 3

Glossary.

Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) A unit that is responsible for the efficient organisation of the search and rescue service and the coordination of the execution of search and rescue operations within the search and rescue region.

Maritime Coordination Centre (MRCC): A unit that is responsible for the efficient organisation of the search and rescue service and the coordination of the execution of search and rescue operations within the search and rescue region.

Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC): A unit that is responsible for the efficient organisation of the search and rescue service and the coordination of the execution of search and rescue operations within the search and rescue region.

Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC): A joint unit for MRCC and ARCC that is responsible for the efficient organisation of the search and rescue service and the coordination of the execution of search and rescue operations within

the search and rescue region. Such Centre must operate round the clock all the year around.

Cospas-Sarsat: An international Search and Rescue System that uses satellites to detect and locate distress signals from emergency senders located, for example, in ships and aircrafts. The system dispatches the distress signals to an official recipient in each country (SAR points of Contact).

Search and Rescue Region (SRR): A demarcated region connected to a Rescue Centre that serves as a Search and Rescue Centre.

CHAPTER II

The Organisation of Maritime and Aeronautical Rescue On the Search and Rescue Region of Iceland.

Article 4

The Control of Rescue Operations

The Coast Guard Service has over all command and is responsible for the Search and Rescue Service within the Icelandic Search and Rescue Region for mariners. The Coast Guard Service coordinates the Search and Rescue operations of all available Rescue Groups on and above the sea.

The Coast Guard Service is responsible for and supervises search and rescue of aircrafts that are considered to be in danger, have crashed or are missing. The Coast Guard Service is responsible for control on the location if the accident took place on the ocean. Isavia is responsible for alerting services.

If an aircraft accident occurred on land, the Police control the operations. Then the regulation on search and rescue on land and the co-operation of the Police and the rescue units might apply as the case may be.

The Controller of Search and Rescue Operations shall have an extensive experience of control and possess an extensive knowledge of the control and organisation of rescue affairs.

Article 5

A Rescue Centre for mariners and aircrafts.

The Coast Guard Service operates a Rescue Centre for Maritime Search and Rescue (MRCC-Iceland) and for Aeronautical Search and Rescue (ARCC-Iceland) at its Command Centre that is named the Joint Rescue and Coordination Centre (JRCC-Iceland) and communicates with foreign Search and Rescue Centres regarding Search and Rescue Operations within the Icelandic Search and Rescue Region, cf. article 2.

The Joint Rescue Coordinated Centre (JRCC-Iceland) shall be the official recipient of distress signals from the Cospas-/Sarsat System (SAR Point of Contact) for the Maritime and Aeronautical Rescue Region of Iceland and operates watch round the clock all the year around. JRCC-Iceland shall ensure that work methods and operating procedures satisfy the demands of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue on the Ocean from 1974. (International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR)), an International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and the demands of appendix 12 to the Convention on International Aviation from December 7th 1944 (the Chicago-Convention), based on the latest update at each given time. Thus the organisation of Search and Rescue shall be in accordance to the demands and instructions of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organisation on Search and Rescue (now IAMSAR: International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual, ICAO Doc 9731), including communication equipment, equipment and

devices for the locations and search and co-operation between the parties that participate in search and rescue.

The Joint Rescue Coordination Centre for Mariners and Aircraft (JRCC-Iceland) shall prepare and publish an alert plan that shall be put into action should a disturbance or an interruption occur in the execution of search and rescue service and its support service within the search and rescue region that Iceland is responsible for, and to coordinate this alert plan with the adjacent Rescue Command Centres.

Requests from other countries for an access to the Search and Rescue Region that Iceland is responsible for, for aircrafts, equipment or manpower for the search of mariners or an aircraft in distress or to rescue survivors from an accident at sea or an aircraft accident, shall be directed to the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC-Iceland).

A country that requests access in accordance with paragraph 4 shall explain their plan in detail and the necessity of the request to the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC-Iceland).

The Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC-Iceland) shall immediately upon receiving a request in accordance with paragraph 4 confirm its receipt. The Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC-Iceland) shall as soon as possible, describe the conditions, if any, for an access into the Icelandic Search and Rescue Region.

Article 6

On scene command

Maritime on scene command shall be conducted from the unit that is best suited for the task in accordance with the decision of the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC-Iceland), irrespective of if this is an aircraft, a ship or a platform and the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC-Iceland) can despatch on location controller on board to supervise the rescue operations. The person in charge at that location shall grant full cooperation and control of the facilities in this respect.

Article 7

Coordination- and Command Centre.

When it is necessary to coordinate Search and Rescue Operations, when more rescue parties are involved, the Coast Guard shall, when it has the overall command and is responsible for the search and rescue, engage the Coordination and Command Centre (SST) at the Rescue Centre at Skogarhlid. The same obligation falls on the Local Police Commissioner when the Local Police Commissioner has the overall command and is responsible for search and rescue.

CHAPTER III

A report on the execution of search and rescue And review group meetings.

Article 8

A report on the execution of search and rescue.

The party that is responsible for search and rescue shall, when the search and/or rescue operation is concluded, deliver a written report on its execution to the Aircraft Accident Investigation Board or the Icelandic Marine Accident Investigation Board as appropriate. A summary shall also be prepared on such operations. Should more parties be involved in the search and rescue operations, they are obliged to deliver a report on their participation to the party responsible for the operations, if requested.

Article 9

Review group meetings etc.

A review group meeting is always to be held in the wake of extensive search and rescue operations and shall be attended by the representatives of those that participated in the operations. The party that had the overall command on that occasion is responsible for calling the meeting. If this was not an extensive search and rescue operation, a review group meeting shall be held if occurrences regarding communication or in the co-operation between parties and also if supporting parties do especially request it.

The Coast Guard shall annually or more frequently if considered necessary convene a meeting of representatives of parties that participated, provide alerting service or assist in search and rescue, as well as representatives of other parties that associate themselves with maritime and aeronautical safety. The main rescue operations are to be discussed and what lessons are to be learnt with the aim to improve maritime and aeronautical safety.

Chapter IV

The police and search and rescue teams.

Article 10

The role of the police and accountability to the Coast Guard.

Commissioners of Police, each in his jurisdiction, are responsible for search and rescue on land. The same applies to search and rescue of the coast off the coastline and inside harbours. A special law applies on rescue that appertains to the organisation of the Civil Defence Administration (Almannavarnir). Should an incident occur at sea, of the coast or inside harbours, the Coast Guard and the Police shall exercise good co-operation. The Joint Rescue Coordination Centre for Mariners and Aircrafts (JRCC-Iceland) shall ensure telecommunication and a flow of information between the Police and the Coast Guard under such circumstances. During a search for aircraft over or near land, the Telecommunication Centre of the Commissioner of the Icelandic Police shall always be informed of such incidents.

When accidents occur inside harbours or of the coasts of the country, near the coast, the Police have the overall command and are responsible for search and rescue operations. The coordination of operations occurs at the Coordination station (SST) at the Rescue Centre at Skogarhlid when necessary.

Article 11

The role of the Commissioner of the Icelandic Police.

The Commissioner of the Icelandic Police assists Commissioners of Police in search and rescue operations and takes care of subjects that due to their nature or conditions demand the centralisation or coordination of police forces. The Commissioner of the Icelandic Police commands the organisation of co-operation between police forces during search and rescue operations. The Commissioner of the Icelandic Police takes care of co-operation with police forces in foreign countries. He is the contact with foreign police authorities regarding the rescue and investigations of accidents.

Article 12

The role of rescue units.

The role of voluntary search and rescue teams and members of such teams according to the law on search and rescue teams and members of such teams is to work for the common good by participating in search and rescue on the sea in cooperation with the Coast Guard and on its responsibility as far as organisation is concerned. According to the same law, the police authorities are responsible for the operations of the search and rescue teams.

When the Coast Guard requests, the search and rescue teams are obliged to begin search and rescue at sea.

The Coast Guard is responsible for overall command of Search and rescue operations during operations, but the technical supervision of the rescue teams rests with their own National organisation command (Landsstjórn). On scene the point of contact from the on scene commander to the rescue teams rest with their regional command (svæðisstjórn). However, it shall be ensures that the JRCC-Iceland can always be in a direct contact with the rescue teams.

Article 13

Information regarding distress calls and/or requests for assistance.

Whoever receives information of an emergency, emergency calls and/or requests for assistance from the sea or above the sea is obliged to notify the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre for Mariners and Aircraft (JRCC-Iceland), the Police or to the Guard Posts of the Coordinated Emergency Service immediately.

The recipient of a notification, cf. paragraph 1, shall immediately forward the notification to the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre for Mariners and Aircraft (JRCC-Iceland). If this is an incident in a harbour or an aircraft incident above or close to land, the Telecommunication Centre of the Commissioner of the Icelandic Police shall also be notified.

When an emergency call is received by the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre for Mariners and Aircrafts (JRCC-Iceland), the police or by a Guard Post of the Coordinated Emergency Service to the effect that people have fallen into the sea from a kayak, jet ski, a boat or a windsurfer, the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre for Mariners and Aircraft (JRCC-Iceland) and the Telecommunication Centre of the Commissioner of the Icelandic Police shall be notified. Should there be doubt whether the Coast Guard or the Police are in charge of the case, both parties should always be notified.

When an emergency call is received by an air navigation service, police or a Guard Posts of the Coordinated Emergency Service for Air Incidents, the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre for Mariners and Aircraft (JRCC-Iceland) and the Area Control Centre in Reykjavik shall immediately be notified. The Telecommunication Centre of the Commissioner of the Icelandic Police shall also be notified of the incident if there is a concern about an aircraft above or close to land.

Article 14

*An obligation to assist search and rescue at sea,**An obligation to observe secrecy.*

A Captain and others that can assist are obliged to assist the Coast Guard in the rescue of human life when this is requested, if this is possible without endangering their lives, health, welfare and vital interests.

Those parties that are not members of rescue units but participants in search and rescues should observe confidentiality on those incidents that they become aware of. This applies to all information on somebody's private affairs and other information that are to remain confidential for legitimate private and public interests.

Rescue parties shall consult the Coast Guard or the Police as appropriate on dissemination of information to the media during operations. However, the search and rescue teams are allowed to explain their access to operations, i.e. regarding authority, equipment etc.

CHAPTER V

Various provisions.

Article 15

Notifications of accident to the Icelandic Marine Accident Investigation Board or the Aircraft Accident Investigation Board and the preservation Of investigation material.

The Coast Guard, the Area Control Centres, the Police, the search and rescue teams, Emergency Calls Centres and others which become aware of accidents at sea or an aircraft accident are obliged to notify or to ensure without evasion that the Icelandic Marine Accident Investigation Board or the Aircraft Accident Investigation Board are made aware of the accidents and all those aforementioned parties shall take care not to disrupt the investigation material, cf. the law on the investigation of accidents at sea and the law on aircraft accidents.

Article 16

Legal basis and adoption

This regulation is prepared in accordance with permission in paragraph 3 of article 13 and article 28 of the law no. 52/2006 on the Icelandic Coast Guard and is to be adopted immediately. At the same time the rules no. 207/1990 on the organisation and overall command of search and rescue on the sea and at the coasts of Iceland with later amendments are expired.

The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, October 5th 2010.

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