

ARRANGEMENT

BETWEEN

THE SEARCH AND RESCUE AGENCIES OF

AUSTRALIA

AND

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

FOR

THE CO-ORDINATION
OF SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES

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The Australian Maritime Safety Authority of Australia and Papua New Guinea AirServices Limited and the National Maritime Safety Authority Papua New Guinea, (the Parties)

RECOGNISING the importance of co-operation in aeronautical and maritime search and rescue and the need to ensure expeditious and effective search and rescue services, and

NOTING the relevant provisions of the standards and recommended practices contained in Annex 12 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation 1944, the Annex to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue 1979, the International Convention on Safety of Life at Sea 1974, and Article 98 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982,

DESIRING to coordinate search and rescue services, mutually arrange the following:

1. IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

Papua New Guinea AirServices Limited and the National Maritime Safety Authority Papua New Guinea and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority of Australia, are the national Search and Rescue (SAR) agencies that will implement this Arrangement. Each of these agencies has responsibility for the operation of a Rescue Coordination Centre.

The term 'Rescue Co-ordination Centre' (RCC), includes the terms 'Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre' (MRCC) or 'Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre' (ARCC), as appropriate. The RCCs of the Parties covered by this Arrangement will be:

For Australia: RCC Australia

For Papua New Guinea: ARCC Port Moresby

MRCC Port Moresby

2. SCOPE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS

Subject to the legislation of each Party, the RCC of each Party will:

- 2.1 Promptly and regularly exchange SAR information concerning an actual distress or a potential distress situation with the other;

- 2.2 Assist the other, to the extent possible, in the conduct of SAR missions in their respective Search and Rescue Regions (SRRs) and across their common SRR boundaries;
- 2.3 Take appropriate measures for the use of facilities in each other's SRRs while engaged on a SAR mission;
- 2.4 Exchange information on SAR resources available to it to ensure mutual knowledge of each other's SAR capabilities;
- 2.5 Conduct regular communications checks with the other to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of SAR communications links;
- 2.6 Conduct periodic SAR exercises with the other to test its ability to conduct a SAR response across the common SRR boundary;
- 2.7 Without prejudicing the ownership of intellectual property and copyright, exchange SAR operational and procedural manuals (and ongoing amendments), and form documents, to allow for the development of procedures and practices that will interface smoothly in practice.

3. SEARCH AND RESCUE REGIONS (SRRs)

The common SRR boundary between the Australian aeronautical and maritime SRRs and the aeronautical and maritime SRRs of Papua New Guinea is delineated by the following points:

09° 37' 00"S 141° 01' 06"E; 09° 15' 42"S 142° 03' 30"E; thence along the Australian/Papua New Guinea border to 09° 19' 24"S 142° 48' 18"E; 09° 08' 00"S 143° 52' 30"E; 09° 24' 00"S 144° 14' 00"E; 09° 56' 34"S 144° 05' 21"E; thence along the eastern boundary of the Great Barrier Reef to 11° 30' 00"S 144° 01' 36"E; 11° 43' 30"S 144° 04' 20"E; 12° 00' 00"S 144° 00' 00"E; and 12° 00' 00"S 155° 00' 00"E.

4. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRES (RCCs)

The following procedures will be followed:

4.1 Determination of Responsible RCC

While the responsibility for declaring an aeronautical emergency phase and initiating local action rests with the relevant aeronautical authority, and, in the case of a marine emergency, with the relevant maritime authority, the responsibility for initiating all subsequent SAR action rests with the RCC. The RCC responsible for overall coordination of SAR action will be determined as follows:

- 4.1.1 When the position of the ship or aircraft needing assistance or in distress is known, action will be coordinated by the RCC in whose SRR the aircraft or ship is located and this RCC will remain the responsible RCC.

4.1.2 When the position of the ship or aircraft is unknown, SAR action will be initiated by the RCC which first becomes aware that the ship or aircraft may need assistance. The RCC initiating a SAR mission will remain in overall coordination of the mission until the responsible RCC is determined. The responsible RCC will be either:

4.1.2.1 The RCC in whose SRR the aircraft or ship was operating when the last contact was made; or

4.1.2.2 The RCC into whose SRR the aircraft or ship was proceeding if the last contact was made on the common SRR boundary.

4.2 Transferring Responsibility for Overall Coordination or part of a SAR Mission

4.2.1 When a transfer of overall SAR co-ordination is proposed, either from the establishment of the aircraft's or ship's position or movement, or because an RCC other than the one initiating the action is more favourably placed to assume overall coordination of the mission by reason of better communications, proximity to the search area, more readily available SAR units or facilities, or any other reasons, the following procedures will be adopted:

4.2.1.1 Direct discussions or communications will be conducted between the Search and Rescue Mission Co-ordinators (SMCs) concerned, to determine the best course of action.

4.2.1.2 If it is decided that a transfer of overall coordination is appropriate for the whole mission, full details of the previous action taken will be exchanged.

4.2.1.3 The RCC with initial overall coordination will retain overall coordination until the accepting RCC formally advises that it has assumed overall coordination of the SAR.

4.2.2 The same procedure will be followed where the RCC with overall coordination wishes to transfer coordination of part of the SAR mission to the other RCC.

4.3 SAR Missions in Adjacent SRRs

4.3.1 Each Party will recognise the established interest of the other Party whose aircraft or ship is *the subject of*, or participating in a SAR mission. Each Party will be notified without delay about any SAR mission by SAR units of the other Party into its SRR to render assistance.

4.3.2 If it becomes necessary for an RCC to deploy SAR units into the SRR of the other Party, the SMC will deploy such units for the mission without delay. Simultaneously the adjacent RCC will be advised by written message providing the following information.

4.3.2.1 SAR mission identification

- 4.3.2.2 SAR units identification and type
- 4.3.2.3 Callsigns and names
- 4.3.2.4 Point of departure, route and destination
- 4.3.2.5 Assigned search tasks
- 4.3.2.6 Number of persons on board
- 4.3.2.7 Communications frequencies in use
- 4.3.2.8 Relevant equipment carried
- 4.3.2.9 Range and endurance
- 4.3.2.10 Recovery plan

4.3.3 The SMC at the adjacent RCC will, on receipt, send an acknowledgment to the initiating RCC and indicate the conditions, if any, under which the intended mission is to be undertaken. All practicable assistance will be rendered to enable the SAR mission to be carried out successfully.

4.3.4 Search units will not enter an Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) until approval is notified by the appropriate RCC.

4.4 Promulgation of Search Areas

The RCC with overall coordination will determine the area of probability and establish the search area(s). The RCC with overall coordination and the RCC in support will, if appropriate, arrange for the promulgation of a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) defining the search area(s) and any associated Restricted or Danger area(s) within their respective SRR, and will issue any necessary safety message(s) to shipping.

4.5 Liaison During a SAR Mission

During the course of a SAR mission, the RCCs concerned will maintain close liaison in order to ensure the smooth and successful execution of the SAR mission. The RCC with overall SAR coordination will keep the other RCC informed at regular intervals of the number of SAR units involved in the mission, areas to be searched, actions taken to date, and the decision to suspend or terminate the SAR mission.

This notification will take the form of situation reports (SITREPs) at least daily or at any time of significant change to the situation. Direct discussion between the SMCs of both RCCs should be undertaken whenever necessary.

5. USE OF OTHER PARTY'S SAR UNITS OR FACILITIES

5.1 The RCC of the Party requesting assistance in the form of SAR units or facilities from the other Party will provide all pertinent details of the type and scope of the assistance or facilities required at the time of the request.

5.2 Where the RCC in overall coordination requests the assistance of SAR units from the other Party those SAR units will be placed under the direction of the SMC of the RCC in overall coordination for the period of their assignment, with the exception of military aircraft, ships or personnel, which will remain under the command of the military headquarters of their

State. As far as direct communications are possible, the RCC with overall coordination will send directly to the SAR unit all instructions and information relative to the operation and the mission requested. The SAR unit will report directly to the RCC with overall coordination.

5.3 A SAR unit of a Party participating in a SAR operation coordinated by the RCC of the other Party will, without special request, be authorised to enter into or over the territorial sea of this last Party. Except when the RCC with overall coordination already has accurate information about the position of this unit, the SAR unit will notify the RCC with overall coordination of its time and position of entry into the territorial sea.

5.4 A SAR unit of a Party participating in a SAR operation co-ordinated by the RCC of the other Party will be authorised to call into appropriate ports or aerodromes of this last Party. The RCC of this Party will make necessary arrangements, including assistance with logistical support, with public services and other bodies to facilitate this call and will transmit any useful information to the unit involved.

6. SAR OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

The respective Parties will be responsible for expenses incurred by their own units deployed during any SAR mission.

7. RECOVERY OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

Recovery of re-useable supplies and survival equipment will be arranged between respective RCCs. When practicable, recovered items will be returned to their owners unless other arrangements for their disposal are mutually determined in specific instances.

8. AMENDMENTS

This Arrangement may be amended by mutual decision of the Parties by exchange of letters.

9. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any disputes between the Parties arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this Arrangement will be settled amicably by consultation between the Parties.

10. COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

This Arrangement will come into effect on signature of both Parties.

This Arrangement may be terminated at any time by mutual consent or by either Party upon giving ninety (90) days notice in writing.

In accordance with the provisions of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization will be notified of this Arrangement. Similarly, the Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization will be notified of this Arrangement.

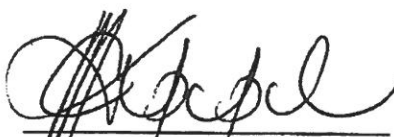
In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Agencies, conclude this Arrangement.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AUSTRALIAN MARITIME
SAFETY AUTHORITY



Signed in triplicate This 12 day of *August* , 2007

GENERAL MANAGER
PAPUA NEW GUINEA AIRSERVICES LIMITED



Signed in triplicate This 12th day of *September* . 2007

GENERAL MANAGER
NATIONAL MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Signed in triplicate This 30th day of *August* , 2007