

INCLUSION OF RCCs AS SAR POINTS OF CONTACT IN DDP

1. ACTION REQUIRED

The Joint Committee is requested to consider introduction of contact details of RCCs associated with each Cospas-Sarsat MCC for RCC to RCC direct contacts during SAR operations.

2. BACKGROUND

In most of the cases RCCs and MCCs are independent agencies working under different organizations. It becomes difficult for MCCs to support RCC requirements that are not directly related to Cospas-Sarsat alerts, during SAR operations. As many of the RCCs and SAR agencies in the world have MCC contact details as given in DDP and accordingly make contacts to MCCs for any information or SAR support. In such situations MCC cannot provide support as required, due to its limited functional responsibilities. Many times MCC receives alert messages that are picked-up through Inmarsat or other sources and request MCCs to provide necessary SAR support, which is outside the scope of Cospas-Sarsat MCC. All such requests should be directly addressed to RCC concerned of that country and not to the MCC. INMCC has come across number of such incidents which were no way related to Cospas-Sarsat alerts (neither detection nor distribution).

Moreover MCC operators are not trained for co-ordinating actual SAR operations for a specific incident, this requires knowledge of various SAR agencies and needs decision making before deployment of SAR forces. The MCC can only provide further updates on Cospas-Sarsat alert detection and beacon registration details if available.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

India recommends introduction of RCCs, Coastguard and other related SAR agencies contact details in the DDP under each MCC along with specific contact procedures clearly defining role and responsibilities of Cospas-Sarsat MCCs to streamline proper information flow to concerned agencies.