



Ref. T2-OSS/2.6

SAR.6/Circ.30
14 July 2008

AREA SEARCH AND RESCUE PLANS

Notification of an Agreement on Search and Rescue Regions and coordination of search and rescue services in accordance with paragraph 2.1.4 of the Annex to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, as amended

Notification by France and Portugal

1 The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to transmit herewith the text of an agreement on maritime search and rescue concluded between the Government of France and the Government of Portugal and submitted in accordance with paragraph 2.1.4 of the Annex to the 1979 SAR Convention, as amended.

2 The Secretary-General would be grateful if steps could be taken to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

ANNEX

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC
FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN THE FRENCH ANTILLES
MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES AND THE
PORTUGUESE MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES**

The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Portuguese Republic, hereinafter known as the Parties:

RECOGNIZING the importance of being aware of the status of passenger ships operating in the French and Portuguese maritime search and rescue regions, in areas located beyond the immediate reach of search and rescue units;

RECOGNIZING the need to preserve the safety of persons placed at serious risk owing to their remoteness from maritime search and rescue services and their isolation on the high seas;

RECOGNIZING the importance of optimizing the efforts devoted by the Parties to maritime search and rescue operations;

NOTING the arrangements in respect of the standards and recommended practices contained in the annex to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, as amended, the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, and article 98 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982, as well as the resolutions emanating from the Conference on Maritime Search and Rescue in the Atlantic Ocean held in Lisbon from 10 to 14 October 1994;

NOTING the provisions contained in the appendix of the annex to MSC.1/Circ.1184 setting out criteria for determining what constitutes an area remote from search and rescue facilities and recommending that search and rescue centres should be informed of passenger ships' position and intentions when operating in a remote area and also of the positions of other passenger ships operating in the same area having the capability to be used as a rescue facility;

NOTING the provisions of MSC/Circ.1174 concerning planning for high-risk ocean voyages undertaken by craft which are poorly suited to the environment and recommending that the maritime rescue coordination centre responsible for the area through which the craft is expected to pass should be informed;

NOTING the provisions of corrigenda 1 and 5 to document SAR.8/Circ.1 on "Global SAR Plan Containing Information on the Current Availability of SAR Services";

Taking into account the legislation of each of the Parties;

Decide to sign this agreement under the following conditions:

1. SERVICES RESPONSIBLE FOR APPLICATION

For France:

- The national authority responsible for maritime search and rescue in the French Antilles: the governmental representative responsible for national maritime policy;
- The national authority responsible for search and rescue operations in the French Antilles: the director of the French Antilles/French Guiana CROSS (Regional Operational Centre for Monitoring and Rescue).

For Portugal:

- MRCC Lisbon and MRCC Delgada.

GLOSSARY

SAR is the abbreviated form of “search and rescue”;

Rescue coordination centre (RCC) covers the term “maritime search and rescue centre” where appropriate;

The following RCCs are involved in this agreement:

- for France: French Antilles/French Guiana CROSS
- for Portugal: MRCC Delgada.

2. AREA OF APPLICATION

This agreement shall apply on both sides of the boundary between the French Antilles search and rescue region and the Portuguese search and rescue region of Santa Maria.

3. AIMS OF THE AGREEMENT

The maritime rescue coordination centres of the two Parties:

- Shall regularly exchange the information in their possession concerning the planning of ocean voyages between the French Antilles and Portuguese coasts, and vice versa, involving passenger cruise ships or light craft;
- Shall undertake to ensure that vessels patrolling the high seas in their search and rescue areas gather all information on the presence of passenger ships or isolated light craft and jointly exchange information on units in transit between the French Antilles and Portugal, and vice versa, without prejudice to the arrangements applicable to the SAR reporting services in force in the area;

- In the event that a SAR operation is launched on the high seas in their search and rescue area, shall exchange information on the available units in proximity to the location of the alert;
- Shall carry out combined liaison tests at least once per month to ensure their capacity to communicate in order to comply with this agreement.

4. AMENDMENTS

This agreement may be amended at any time by joint decision of the two Parties done in writing.

5. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any dispute arising from implementation of this agreement shall be resolved between the Parties amicably, through consultation.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

This agreement shall come into effect on signature.

This agreement may be terminated by decision of one of the Parties, provided ninety (90) days' notice in writing is given to the other Party.

Done in Lisbon this twenty-second day of February two thousand and eight, in the French and Portuguese languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the French Republic	For the Government of the Portuguese Republic	
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(Signed)	(Signed)	
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The Junior Minister for Transport under the Minister for Sustainable Ecology, Development and Land-use Management	The Minister for Defence and Maritime Affairs	
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