

PROTOCOL
ON THE COOPERATION CONCERNING SEARCH AND RESCUE
IN THE BODØ AND REYKJAVIK SEARCH AND RESCUE REGIONS
BETWEEN
THE ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND THE POLICE
AND
THE CIVIL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION OF ICELAND

The Royal Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the Police and the Civil Aviation Administration of Iceland, hereinafter called the parties, have in accordance with Annex 12 to the Convention of 7 December 1944 on International Civil Aviation reached the following agreement:

Article 1

The responsibility of providing assistance to aircraft in an emergency in one of the parties' search and rescue regions, rests with the search and rescue service in question.

Information on the organizational structure of the search and rescue services units, search and rescue region, rescue units and equipment for search and rescue together with procedures and signals to be used in connection with search and rescue service in each country, must be published in the Aeronautical Information Publication of each country, respectively.

The parties shall inform each other of changes in e.g. the organizational structure of the search and rescue service in accordance with the above.

Article 2

Communication between the rescue coordination centres in the two countries shall according to circumstances take place via the most suitable means of communications.

Communication between the rescue coordination centres/rescue sub centres and rescue units shall normally be made via the frequencies provided for rescue purposes.

Communication shall be in English.

Article 3

Should one of the parties' search and rescue services units discover that an aircraft is in an emergency within the area mentioned in Article 1 the respective rescue coordination centre shall take measures to provide search and rescue, as required by the circumstances.

Should the rescue coordination centre receiving information that an aircraft is in an emergency realize that the other rescue coordination centre's cooperation is needed or may be needed later, the other rescue coordination centre shall be informed thereof, and be informed if necessary assistance is requested. The rescue coordination centre receiving such a request shall if possible provide the required assistance.

In future cooperation shall be exercised between the parties' rescue coordination centres. In agreement with the parties' rescue coordination centres the operational control of the units participating in a search and rescue operation shall be delegated to the most suitable rescue coordination centre/rescue sub centre.

The search and rescue services units of the parties shall cooperate with the authorities responsible for accident investigation and for the handling of casualties.

Upon request of assistance from each of the countries maritime rescue centres the parties' rescue coordination centres shall if at all possible provide assistance within the Bodø and Reykjavik search and rescue regions.

Assistance to aircraft of maritime craft in an emergency and to surviving passengers and crew members following an air crash or marine incident, shall be provided irrespective of nationality.

Article 4

Information on crossing of national borders with aircraft, equipment and personnel participating in search of aircraft or maritime craft in an emergency or participating in rescue of passengers and crew members following an air crash or marine incident shall be forwarded to the national rescue coordination centre.

Upon crossing of national borders the pilot-in-command will normally be instructed to contact the rescue coordination centre or rescue sub centre in charge of the operational control of search and rescue operations and request instructions.

If necessary a rescue unit may land within the other country's search and rescue region. In case of such a landing the rescue coordination centre/rescue sub centre shall inform the appropriate authorities and upon request initiate customs clearance of the aircraft.

Article 5

The parties shall authorize the chiefs of their respective rescue coordination centres - within the framework of this protocol- to enter into an agreement on the necessary co-operation procedures and later revisions as necessary.

To provide for an appropriate operational function in accordance with this protocol exercises must be initiated, the operational control of which shall alternate between the Bodø and Reykjavik rescue coordination centres. The rescue coordination centre in charge of the operational control shall organize the exercise. The exercise shall be planned in such a way that also cooperation

with the maritime rescue organization is periodically tested. In connection with exercises each rescue coordination centre will pay their own expenses.

The parties shall review the results of search and rescue operations and exercises and if necessary suggest changes in the organizational structure and regulations.

Article 6

This protocol is valid from 1992. The protocol shall be invalid one year after the receipt of one party's information to the other party that the validity of the protocol is terminated.

Article 7

This protocol is issued in two identical master copies; one for the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the Police and one for the Civil Aviation Administration of Iceland.

For the Royal Norwegian Ministry
of Justice and the Police

For Civil Aviation
Administration
Iceland

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