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6 October 2009

AREA SEARCH AND RESCUE PLANS

Notification of an Arrangement 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 Chile and New Zealand

1 The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to transmit herewith the text of an Arrangement on maritime search and rescue services concluded between the Governments of Chile and New Zealand 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



ARRANGEMENT

between

the MARITIME AUTHORITY OF CHILE

and

MARITIME NEW ZEALAND

for

the CO-ORDINATION

OF SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES



ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN CHILE AND NEW ZEALAND

The Director General of the Maritime Territory and Merchant Marine of Chile and the Director of Maritime New Zealand.

RECOGNIZING the importance of co-operation in maritime search and rescue and the need for ensuring expeditious and effective search and rescue services,

NOTING the relevant provisions of the standards and recommended practices contained in the chapters of the Annex to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue 1979, and the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974,

subject to the legislation of each Party, have made the following arrangements:

1. IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

The national maritime search and rescue (SAR) agencies of New Zealand and Chile.

2. SCOPE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS

Both Parties, through their respective rescue co-ordination centres (RCCs), "MRCC" CHILE and "RCC" NEW ZEALAND, respectively, will:

- 2.1 exchange SAR information concerning an actual situation or a surface picture of interest, within their respective maritime search and rescue regions, to allow a prompt and regular assistance in the event of a potential distress;
- 2.2 assist each other, to the extent possible, in conducting SAR missions in their respective search and rescue regions, mainly along their common search and rescue boundaries;
- 2.3 take appropriate measures to facilitate the entry of SAR units into the Search and Rescue Region of the other country and for the use of facilities in the respective countries, while engaged on a SAR mission in the SAR area of responsibility of the neighbouring country;
- 2.4 exchange information on current SAR resources available, to ensure mutual knowledge of each other's SAR capabilities;
- 2.5 conduct tests on communication links with each other at least once per calendar month to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of SAR communication links;

- 2.6 conduct regular (ideally annually) maritime SAR exercises to test response capabilities of both agencies and their ability to effect a joint search and rescue operation within the Chile and New Zealand Search and Rescue Regions;
- 2.7 hold regular (ideally annually) meetings to unify criteria in exchange of SAR experiences of both agencies, mainly those regarding procedures aimed at providing assistance and rescue of major incidents, such as those involving passenger ships that navigate the Antarctic area, or in emergencies on the maritime boundary of both countries.

3. STANDARD MARITIME RESCUE CO-ORDINATION CENTRE OPERATING PROCEDURES

3.1 Determination of responsible MRCC or RCC.

For the purposes of this arrangement and in particular in respect of this item 3 "Standard Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre Operating Procedures", it is noted that an RCC is exactly the same as an MRCC, as an RCC is internationally known as a Rescue Co-ordination Centre and therefore it does not affect the meaning of what is stated in this paragraph.

While the responsibility for declaring an aviation emergency phase above a maritime area rests with the relevant aviation authority or, in the case of a marine emergency, with the relevant maritime SAR authority, the responsibility for initiating all subsequent maritime SAR actions rests with the MRCC CHILE or RCC NEW ZEALAND, depending on the area of responsibility where the emergency occurred.

The MRCC responsible for initiating SAR action will be determined as follows:

When the position of an aircraft or ship needing assistance in distress is known, the action will be initiated by the MRCC in whose search and rescue area the aircraft or ship is located.

When the position of the ship is unknown, action will be initiated by the MRCC that first becomes aware that the ship may need assistance. The MRCC initiating a SAR mission will remain in charge of the mission until the MRCC responsible for overall SAR co-ordination takes over. In the case of a missing aircraft in the air-SAR area of Chile, the Air Force of Chile will take over the search co-ordination, which will be in contact with the surface units of MRCC Chile, as pursuant to the internal procedures between these institutions.

3.2 Transferring overall responsibility.

When a transfer of responsibility for overall SAR co-ordination is to take place, either from subsequent establishment of the aircraft's or ship's position or movement, or because an MRCC responsible for the area and other than the one initiating the SAR mission is more favourably placed to assume overall SAR co-ordination (because of better communications, proximity to the search area, more readily available SAR units or facilities, or any other reason), direct communications will be conducted between the SAR mission co-ordinators concerned to determine the best course of action. If it is decided that a transfer of responsibility is appropriate for the whole mission or part thereof, full details of action taken up to that time will be exchanged; and the initiating MRCC will retain responsibility until the accepting MRCC advises it has assumed responsibility for overall SAR co-ordination.

3.3 Entry procedures for SAR units into Chile or New Zealand.

Each Party will recognize the established interest of any other State whose aircraft or ships are involved in a SAR mission and will take steps to facilitate the entry of these SAR units into its Search and Rescue Region to render assistance.

3.4 Promulgation of search areas.

When the MRCC responsible for overall SAR co-ordination has been determined in accordance with paragraph 3.1, the MRCC will determine the area of probability and will establish the search area(s). The responsible MRCC and the counterpart MRCC will, if appropriate, arrange for promulgation of the relevant Maritime Safety Information (MSI) defining any associated Restricted or Danger area(s) within their respective search and rescue areas, and will issue any necessary safety message(s) to shipping.

3.5 Liaison during a SAR mission.

During the course of a SAR mission, MRCCs will maintain close liaison to ensure the smooth and successful execution of the mission. The MRCC responsible for overall SAR co-ordination will inform the counterpart MRCC at regular intervals, or whenever necessary according to the progress of the emergency, of the number of SAR units involved in the mission, areas to be searched, actions taken to date, and decisions to suspend or terminate the mission. Notification will take the form of situation reports (SITREP) at least daily or at any time of significant change to the situation for the On-Scene Commanders (OSC) or the SRU. Direct communication between the SAR mission co-ordinators and OSC should be conducted whenever necessary.

4. USE OF OTHER PARTY'S FACILITIES BY SAR UNITS:

- 4.1 SAR units assigned by one Party to the MRCC of the other Party which is responsible for overall co-ordination of a SAR mission, will be placed under the direction of the relevant SAR mission co-ordinator for the period of their assignment, except that military aircraft, ships, or personnel will remain under the control of the military/police headquarters of their State.
- 4.2 The MRCC of the Party requesting the assistance in the form of SAR units or facilities of the other Party will provide details of the type and scope of the assistance or facilities required.
- 4.3 The requesting MRCC will provide a full briefing, directly to each SAR unit that has been made available, on the scope of its mission before the unit enters the requesting MRCC's search and rescue region. If it is necessary for such SAR units to land at an airfield or make use of other facilities of the Party of the requesting MRCC in the course of its assigned mission, the requesting MRCC will make all necessary arrangements to facilitate provision of services to the SAR unit.

5. SAR OPERATIONAL EXPENSES:

Each Party will be responsible for expenses incurred by its own SAR units deployed during a SAR mission.

6. RECOVERY OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT:

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

7. AMENDMENTS:

The arrangements may be amended by mutual decision of their parties by exchange of letters.

8. ENTRY INTO EFFECT:

These arrangements will come into effect on signature by both Parties.

9. EXCHANGE:

Both Parties agree to consider an exchange of personnel from the relevant MRCC, as a traineeship, to allow mutual knowledge of operational and administrative procedures of both organizations, seeking to obtain a standardization of procedures in terms of maritime search and rescue. Arrangements for the exchange will be determined on an individual case basis.

10. TERMINATION

Either Party, upon giving the other Party ninety (90) days notice in writing, may terminate these arrangements at any time by mutual consent.



JUAN PABLO HEUSSER
REAR ADMIRAL
DIRECTOR OF MARITIME OPERATIONS AND SAFETY



CATHERINE TAYLOR
DIRECTOR
MARITIME NEW ZEALAND

SIGNED DURING THE 10TH MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC HEADS OF MARITIME SAFETY AGENCIES FORUM IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, FROM 31 MAY TO 03 JUN 2009.