SIERRA LEONE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

Guidance to Develop Procedure for Rescue Coordination Centre to Employ Sufficient Workforce Skilled in Coordination and Operational Functions

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Director General

Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority

1. GENERAL

The Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority's Advisory Circulars contains information about standards, practices and procedures that the Authority has found to be an Acceptable Means of Compliance (AMC) with the associated Regulations.

An AMC is not intended to be the only means of compliance with a Regulation, and consideration will be given to other methods of compliance that may be presented to the Authority

Information considered directive in nature is described in this AC in terms such as "shall" and "must", indicating the actions are mandatory. Guidance information is described in terms such as "should" and "may" indicating the actions are desirable or permissive, but not mandatory

1.1 Purpose

This guidance provides instruction to develop and review the procedure on how to determine the capacity of the Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC), employ sufficient workforce skilled in coordination and operational functions to ensure the provision of an adequate search and rescue service.

1.2 Applicability

This AC is applicable to Search and Rescue Service providers in Sierra Leone.

1.3 Description of Changes

This AC is the first to be issued on this subject

1.4 References

(a) SLCAR Part 12- Search and Rescue
(b) ICAO Annex 12- Search and Rescue
(c) ICAO DOC 9731- IAMSAR Manual

1.5 Cancelled Documents

Not Applicable

2. GUIDANCE AND PROCEDURES

2.1 General

2.1.1 There shall be strengthen coordination and cooperation between organizations in order to:-

(a) support and assist each other
(b) promote SAR system effectiveness and efficiency
(c) work nationally as SAR organization

2.1.2 The operational functions of an RCC must be enacted within the State political and social environment. This environment can provide necessary resources or inputs (communications, civil and military SAR Units (SRU), etc). The social environment of the State comprehends a

wide array of stakeholders (government authorities, industry, the public etc) and beneficiaries (i.e. persons in distress and the industry entities, tour operators, recreational groups etc. with which they are associated).

2.1.3   For the SAR system to achieve maximum effectiveness certain preparations must be made and activities organized which includes:

(a) a high degree of readiness;
(b) training and exercise must be conducted periodically that involve the various SAR system components in order to maintain proficiency and safety;
(c) There should be a commitment to continuous individual improvement of all SAR system components that support live operations as well as the whole SAR system.

2.1.4   Conduct quick and effective Search and Rescue (SAR) operation for the purpose of saving life and property, coordinate and organize concerned Agents, mobilize available resources, for SAR purpose; ensure coordination with adjacent Rescue Coordination Centers (RCCs).

2.1.5   Any SAR system should be structured to perform the following functions effectively:

(a) receive, acknowledge, and relay notifications of distress;
(b) co-ordinate SAR response; and
(c) Conduct SAR operations.

2.1.6   SAR workforce skilled in coordination and operational functions is critical to performance and safety. The SAR system should save those in distress when it can, and also use training to reduce risks to its own valuable personnel and facilities. Training personnel in making sound risk assessments will help to ensure that these trained professionals and valuable facilities remain available for future operations.

2.1.7   SAR workforce skilled in coordination and operational functions must be certified. The purpose of certification is to authorize an individual to serve in a stated capacity. Certificates may be issued to candidates who meet the requirements. Training alone can provide only basic knowledge and skills. Qualification and certification processes are used to ensure sufficient experience, maturity and judgment are gained.