

ICAO Asia/Pacific SAR Working Group 12016

SAR Agreement – Letter of Agreement

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SAR Agreement or Letter of Agreement

- The aeronautical community uses the term “Letter of Agreement (LOA)”
- Other agencies (maritime, ministry of foreign affairs, ... may have different view as to the contents.
- Key concerns of other agencies include sovereignty, coordinates of SAR regions, costs, immigration, ...
 - These concerns may be beyond the authority of the RCC/SAR service but they affect SAR response
 - SAR agreement should overcome these concerns.

Asia/Pacific SAR Plan V1.0:

Page 3, paragraph 2.7, last sentence:

- ‘short term measure that may be implemented relatively easily...SAR agreement’
- LOA as a lower form of arrangement for operational matters between SAR service providers
- Agreement more formal between governments

Page 17, paragraph 7.2:

- b) adjoining SRRs or FIRs, including trans-regional
- c) up to date cross-border info on SAR capability
- d) pre-arrange procedures

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SAR Agreement (LoA)

- Contracting States should enter into agreements with neighbouring States to strengthen search and rescue cooperation and coordination, setting forth the conditions for entry of each other's SAR units into their respective territories. These agreements should also provide for expediting entry of such units with the least possible formalities (*Rec 3.1.5 of Annex 12*)

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Contents of a SAR Agreement

- ◆ States or organization concerned
- ◆ Effective date of the agreement
- ◆ Contact details
- ◆ Media through which contact for assistance will be executed
- ◆ Procedures/conditions for entry of each other's SAR units into their respective territories.

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Contents of a SAR Agreement

- ◆ Facilitation of personnel
- ◆ Who is going to provide what (fuel, accommodation, repatriation, etc.)
- ◆ Removal of supplies or temporary structures
- ◆ Cost recovery mechanisms
- ◆ Insurance in case of damages incurred
- ◆ Accountability (signature)

International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual

**IAMSAR Manual Volume I
Appendix I “SAR
agreement”**

**(2016 edition has a
template with details)**



SAR Agreement

- **2016 edition of the IAMSAR Manual, Volume I.**
 - **Appendix I**
 - **To avoid confusion, read the “Notes” on the first page of Appendix I.**
 - **Agreements can provide operational procedures – eliminate confusion and mistrust**
 - **Confidence building measures such as joint visits and exercises**

Next step???

- **All States are expected to have agreements but there is no simple solution for any State.**
 - **(This takes negotiations.)**
- **What can SAR services do to help the other agencies help them in performing SAR?**
- **Based on your experience, how can we use the information from the 3 sources just mentioned, and create practical advice for completing SAR agreements/LoAs?**