



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
DIRECTORATE OF AIRSPACE MANAGEMENT
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ATMC

AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CIRCULAR NO. 02 of 2025

SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) TRAINING FOR NON-RCC ATS PERSONNEL

1 Introduction

- 1.1 India, being a Contracting State to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), provides Search and Rescue (SAR) services within its entire territory as well as areas in which India is responsible for the provision of Air Traffic Services outside its territory.
- 1.2 The aeronautical search and rescue coordination services are being provided by the Airports Authority of India over the Indian Search and Rescue Regions (SRRs) on a 24-hour basis through four Rescue Coordination Centres (RCCs) established at Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and one Rescue Subcentre (RSC) of RCC-Kolkata established at Guwahati.
- 1.3 Para 2.3.3 of DGCA CAR Section 9 Series S Part I Issue III stipulates that “each rescue coordination centre shall be staffed 24 hours a day by trained personnel proficient in the use of the language used for radiotelephony communications”. RCCs and RSCs are manned by ATS personnel trained in SAR procedures (SAR-trained). To ensure that RCC/RSC personnel maintain the required level of competency, ATS personnel who are deputed for



RCC/RSC duties are provided with basic, OJT and refresher SAR trainings.

1.4 AAI has published a Search and Rescue Training Policy, which deals with Training Need Assessment and Training Plan and also a SAR Training Programme, which handles Programme Need Implementation and Evaluation. These documents provide guidance on the development and provision of training programmes for ATS personnel engaged in the provision of SAR Services.

1.5 ATCOs who do not form part of the RCC/RSC workforce are also required to be aware of search and rescue procedures to discharge their ATS responsibilities towards “*notifying appropriate organisations regarding aircraft in need of search and rescue aid, and assist such organisations as required*”. RCCs and RSCs work in close coordination with ATS Units during any SAR Incident scenario. Hence, awareness among ATS personnel performing duties in ATS units regarding SAR organisation, processes, and procedures is of utmost importance.

2 Purpose

This ATMC describes the SAR training requirements for ATS personnel posted at airports across India, *who are not SAR-trained and are not part of the RCC/RSC workforce*.

3 Scope

3.1 This ATMC applies to all ATS personnel posted at airports across India. ATS-In-Charges and Training-In-Charges are responsible for implementing the requirements contained in this ATMC.

4 Procedures

4.1 Aeronautical Search and Rescue procedures should form part of the station-level training curriculum of ATS personnel. Aircraft Rules, 1937 stipulates that knowledge of “*emergency and search and rescue plans*” forms part of the basic requirement for acquiring any procedural or surveillance rating



by ATS personnel. Para 5.2 of DGCA CAR Section 9 Series L Part V Issue I on “Rating Training Manual for Personnel of Air Traffic Services” stipulates that the annual refresher training syllabus for ATS personnel shall include unusual occurrences and emergency situations.

4.2 The Refresher Training for ATS personnel should include discussion on various phases of aircraft emergencies, coordination between ATS Units and RCC/RSC and ensuing aeronautical search and rescue procedures. The presentation should be delivered by an authorised ATC instructor, preferably trained in SAR and experienced in performing RCC/RSC duties. Officers trained at ATSTO in Search and Rescue (SAR) and who have successfully completed the Instructor Techniques Course may also be permitted to deliver the presentation.

4.3 The SAR presentation in the Refresher Training for ATCOs should be of sufficient duration to cover the following topics:

- Important Abbreviations & Definitions;
- SAR system components;
- SAR process and SAR organisation;
- Aeronautical SAR communication;
- SAR cooperation;
- Rescue Coordination Centres and Rescue Subcentres;
- Operational procedures during aircraft in distress;
- COSPAS-SARSAT system;
- GADSS, LADR and OPS CTRL Directory;
- SAR Training & Exercises; and
- Any other relevant topic on SAR.

4.4 ATS personnel posted at RCC/RSC stations should be required to visit the Unit and familiarise themselves with equipment, infrastructure, documents



and working procedures. RCC/RSC should maintain a record of such familiarisation sessions provided to ATS personnel.

4.5 Any new developments in SAR and recent SAR incident analyses should be discussed during the monthly sensitisation programme for ATS personnel.

5 Queries:

5.1 Any queries or further guidance required on the contents of this ATMC should be addressed to:

**Executive Director [ASM]
Airports Authority of India
Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan,
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6 Validity:

This ATMC shall remain in force until further notice.

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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR [ASM]
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

Dated: 21-08-2025