



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

AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CIRCULAR NO. 04 of 2026

HARMONISATION OF AIRPORT EMERGENCY PLANS WITH SEARCH AND RESCUE PLANS OF OPERATION

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Asia and Pacific Office of ICAO has urged States to provide information on their Search and Rescue (SAR) capability through a Regional SAR Plan Monitoring and Reporting Form, which has 41 SAR performance indicators. SAR performance indicator no. 9 requires States to “*Establish Aerodrome (Airport) Emergency Plans that provide for cooperation and coordination with Rescue Coordination Centres (RCC)*”.
- 1.2 Further, para 3.12 of ICAO DOC 9137 Airport Services Manual, PART 7 Airport Emergency Planning, emphasises that the potential role of RCC should be specifically highlighted in a separate paragraph in the Airport Emergency Plan document.

30/08/26



2 Purpose

This ATMC highlights the requirement of establishing Airport Emergency Plans that provide clear guidelines for cooperation and coordination with appropriate Rescue Coordination Centres (RCC), and Rescue Subcentres (RSC), where applicable.

3 Scope

3.1 This ATMC applies to SAR Coordinators (ATS-in-Charges of RCC and RSC stations), GMs(ATM)-Region, RCC/RSC-in-Charges, SAR-trained ATM personnel in RCCs and RSC, WSOs and ATS Personnel of all stations.

3.2 This ATMC is also relevant to the Airport Directors of all AAI and non-AAI airports. Hence, the Directorate of Operations, AAI is requested to give wide dissemination of the contents of this ATMC and/or issue a separate Operational Circular for this purpose.

3.3 The contents of this ATMC are relevant to Defence Aerodromes / Civil Enclaves, Flying Training Organisations (FTO), and Uncontrolled Aerodromes. Hence, GMs(ATM)-Regions are requested to distribute this ATMC to such organisations/units for information and compliance.

4 Procedures

4.1 Updating Airport Emergency Plans and SAR Plans of Operation to include provisions for cooperation and coordination during aircraft emergencies

4.1.1 Airport Emergency Plans of all aerodromes located in the Search and Rescue Region (SRR) of an RCC/RSC should be updated to include specific provisions for cooperation and coordination during aircraft emergencies.

4.1.2 SAR Plans of Operation of RCCs and RSCs should also be updated to include specific provisions for cooperation and coordination during aircraft emergencies happening in and around aerodromes located in the SRR of the RCC/RSC.

Signature



4.2 Updating of Airport Emergency Plans

4.2.1 Airport Emergency Plans should contain the following text, suitably customised as per the requirement, to ensure timely coordination with the appropriate RCC/RSC in the event of an aircraft emergency:

- *RCCs/RSCs can play a significant role when aircraft accidents occur at an airport or in the vicinity or beyond of an airport, when the accident site is not readily known, or rescue facilities additional to those available at or near the airport are required to be brought into action. RCCs/RSCs have means of immediate communication with Search and Rescue Units (SRU) within their areas of responsibility, including units providing aircraft, helicopters and special rescue teams, and coastal radio stations capable of alerting and communicating with surface vessels. Assistance from such units could be essential in responding to an aircraft accident at or in the vicinity or beyond of the airport.*
- *In the event of an aircraft accident at an airport or in the vicinity or beyond of the airport, [Unit/Authority of the airport] shall inform the RCC/RSC [Name of the concerned RCC/RSC station], RCC/RSC-in-Charge, [Name of the concerned RCC/RSC] and Watch Supervisory Officer, [Name of the concerned RCC/RSC station] by the most expeditious means.*

4.2.2 The responsibility for incorporating, maintaining and periodically updating the prescribed SAR coordination provisions in the Airport Emergency Plan shall rest with the Airport Director/Airport Emergency Planning Authority concerned.

Note: Any changes in contact details of key officials such as Airport Director, ATS In-Charge, OIC, TWR/APP/ACC units, etc., arising due to transfers, postings, tours, or changes in responsibilities should be communicated promptly to the concerned RCC/RSC to

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ensure availability of updated emergency contact information.

4.3 Updating of SAR Plan of Operations

4.3.1 SAR Plans of Operation of RCCs and RSCs should also contain the following text, suitably customised as per the requirement, to ensure timely coordination with all concerned units and offices in the event of an aircraft emergency:

- *RCCs/RSCs can play a significant role when aircraft accidents occur at an airport or in the vicinity or beyond of an airport, when the accident site is not readily known, or rescue facilities additional to those available at or near the airport are required to be brought into action. RCCs/RSCs have means of immediate communication with Search and Rescue Units (SRU) within their areas of responsibility, including units providing aircraft, helicopters and special rescue teams, and coastal radio stations capable of alerting and communicating with surface vessels. Assistance from such units could be essential in responding to an aircraft accident at or in or beyond the vicinity of the airport.*
- *RCC/RSC [Name of the concerned RCC/RSC Station] may be informed by WSO, ATS Unit, Airport Operator or any other source about the aircraft accident at an airport or in the vicinity or beyond of the airport, located in its SRR.*
- *On becoming aware of the aircraft accident, RCC/RSC [Name of the concerned RCC/RSC Station] shall be activated immediately, and actions pertaining to the DISTRESS PHASE of the emergency for search and rescue coordination shall be initiated.*

4.3.2 The responsibility for incorporating, maintaining and periodically updating the prescribed Airport Emergency Plan coordination provisions in the SAR Plan of Operation shall rest with the designated SAR Coordinator / RCC/RSC-in-Charge.

[Signature]

**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,
Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi-110003.
E-mail: edasm@aai.aero**

6 Validity:

This ATMC shall remain in force until further notice.

7 Cancellation:

ED (ATM) Letter No. AAI/ATM/SAR/18-15/44, dated 07 July 2020, on the subject, may be treated as cancelled.

M. S. T. F.
10/8/26
(MOOSA T F)

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

Dated: 10-08-2026

मूसा टी एफ / MOOSA T F
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