



**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO.:** 17-2021

**TO :** ALL CONCERNED

**FROM :** DIRECTOR GENERAL

**SUBJECT :** AMENDMENT 1 TO PHILIPPINE CIVIL AVIATION  
REGULATIONS – AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES PART 12,  
ISSUE 2

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**REFERENCE:**

1. Philippine Civil Aviation Regulations – Air Navigation Services Part 12, Issue 2
2. Regulations Amendment Procedure
3. Board Resolution No. 2012-054 dated 28 September 2012

Pursuant to the powers vested in me under the Republic Act No. 9497, otherwise known as the Civil Aviation Authority Act of 2008 and in accordance with the Board Resolution No.: 2012-054 dated 28 September 2012, I hereby approve the incorporation of Amendment No. 1 to the Philippine Civil Aviation Regulation governing Aerodromes.

**ORIGINAL REGULATIONS SUBJECT FOR REVIEW AND REVISION:**

**CIVIL AVIATION REGULATIONS – AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES PART 12**

...

**12.1 DEFINITIONS**

...

**Cospas-OSPAS-Sarsat-ARSAT System** – A satellite system designated to detect distress beacons transmitting on frequencies 121.5 MHz. and 406 MHz.

...

**Primary Search and Rescue Unit** – recognized groups with the capability to conduct on-scene operation to retrieve persons in distress, provide initial medical or other needs and deliver them to a place of safety.

...

**Secondary Rescue Unit** – recognized off-scene groups with the ability to continuously assist in providing medical or other needs to retrieved persons in distress, and deliver them to a better place of safety.

...

12.2.2.1 The Manila Flight Information Region (FIR) shall be designated as the Philippine Search and Rescue Region (SRR) ~~in concurrence with the provisions of ICAO Annex 12.~~ The Philippine SRR shall not overlap and be contiguous with the SRR's of adjacent States.

~~The Philippine Search and Rescue Region (SRR) have the following geographical coordinates:~~

~~From — 21° 00' 00" N — 117° 30' 00" E~~

~~To 21° 00' 00" N 130° 00' 00" E~~  
~~To 07° 00' 00" N 130° 00' 00" E~~  
~~To 03° 30' 00" N 133° 00' 00" E~~  
~~To 03° 30' 00" N 132° 00' 00" E~~  
~~To 04° 00' 00" N 132° 00' 00" E~~  
~~To 04° 00' 00" N 120° 00' 00" E~~  
~~To 07° 30' 00" N 117° 30' 00" E~~  
~~To 10° 30' 00" N 114° 00' 00" E~~

12.2.2.2 The Philippine Search and Rescue Region (SRR) shall have the geographical coordinates which coincide with the Manila Flight Information Region (FIR) as published in the Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) under ENR 2.1-1.

...

12.2.3.3 The PARCC shall be staffed 24 hours a day by trained personnel proficient in the use of the language used for radiotelephony communications.

...

12.2.3.7 ~~The following shall be designated as rescue units of the CAAP aeronautical SAR service and shall provide the necessary SAR assets and act appropriately as provided for in relevant Letter of Agreements:~~

CAAP-PARCC shall be in coordination with the following recognized rescue units who will provide the necessary SAR assets and act appropriately as:

...

b) Secondary Rescue Units:

- 1) ~~Department of Health, DOH~~ Department of Interior and Local Government, DILG and Local Government Units (LGUs)
- 2) Philippine ~~National~~ Red Cross, PNRC
- 3) Department of Social Welfare and Development, DSWD
- 4) National Disaster ~~Risk Reduction and Management Coordinating Council, OCD~~ NDRRMC
- 5) ~~Department of Interior and Local Government, DILG~~

...

d) Other emergency relief organizations with SAR capable resources as ~~maybe~~ may be called upon by the PARCC.

- 1) In sparsely populated areas where communication systems are not developed, alerting posts shall be designated to relay by the most reliable and expeditious means, information concerning aircraft in distress.

2) ~~The~~ PARCC shall endeavor to arrange for local authorities, vessels, and aircraft to cooperate fully in SAR operations, and take appropriate actions for the well-being of survivors of aircraft accidents.

3) The location, organization, and function of ~~the~~ PARCC and its associated rescue sub-centers ~~thus established~~ shall be published in the Aeronautical Information Publication of the Philippines (AIP) for information and proper dissemination.

...

12.2.4.1 ~~The~~ PARCC shall have means of rapid and reliable two-way communication with:

- a) associated air traffic services units;
- b) associated rescue sub-centers, where provided; c) where appropriate, coastal radio stations capable of alerting and communicating with surface vessels in the region;
- d) the headquarters of search and rescue units in the region;
- e) maritime RCCs, aeronautical RCCs, and joint rescue coordination centers in adjacent regions;
- f) ~~a designated meteorological office or meteorological watch office~~ Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, PAGASA;
- g) search and rescue units, SRUs;
- h) alerting posts; and
- i) the ~~Cospas~~OSPAS-Sarsat~~ARSAT~~ Mission Control Centre (MCC) and Local User Terminals (LUTs) servicing the region.

...

12.2.4.2 Each rescue sub-center, where provided, shall have means of rapid and reliable two-way communication with:

- a) the main RCC base facility;

...

12.3.1.1.2 ~~The~~ PARCC should, in so far as practicable, develop common search and rescue plans and procedures to facilitate coordination of search and rescue operations with those of neighboring States.

...

12.3.1.1.5 The Director General of ~~the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines~~ CAAP shall:

...

12.3.1.1.8 By the authority granted by ~~the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines~~ CAAP, ~~the~~ PARCC:

...

12.3.1.1.9 By the authority granted by ~~the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines~~ CAAP, ~~the~~ PARCC may provide, when requested, assistance to other rescue coordination centers, including assistance in the form of aircraft, vessels, persons or equipment.

12.3.1.1.10 ~~The~~ CAAP should make arrangements for joint training exercises involving ~~the~~ PARCC, Philippine Air Force-505th Search and Rescue Group, the Naval Air Group-Philippine Fleet Philippine Navy, the Philippine Coast Guard Aviation Group, local search

and rescue organizations, aircraft operators, and RCCs of other States to promote search and rescue efficiency.

12.3.1.1.11 ~~The~~ CAAP should make arrangements for periodic liaison visits by PARCC personnel to ~~the~~ RCCs of neighboring States.

...

12.3.2.1 ~~The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines through the~~ CAAP-PARCC, shall arrange for all aircraft, vessels and local emergency services and facilities which do not form part of the primary and secondary rescue groups to cooperate fully in search and rescue and to extend any possible assistance to survivors of aircraft accidents.

12.3.2.2 ~~The~~ CAAP should ensure the closest practicable coordination between ~~the~~ PARCC, the Philippine Air Force, the 505th Search and Rescue Group, the Naval Air Group-Philippine Navy, and the Philippine Coast Guard Aviation Group to provide for the most effective and efficient search and rescue services.

12.3.2.3 ~~The~~ CAAP shall ensure that search and rescue services cooperate with organizations in charge for investigating aviation accidents and with those responsible for the care of survivors of an aviation accident.

...

12.3.2.5 The SAR Point-of-Contact (SPOC) in the Philippine SRR to receive ~~Cospas~~OSPAS-Sarsat~~ARSAT~~ distress alerts shall be the Philippine Aeronautical RCC of ~~the~~ CAAP.

...

12.3.3.2 ~~The~~ CAAP should, to the extent practicable, disseminate information to the general public and emergency response authorities regarding actions to be taken when there is reason to believe that an aircraft's emergency situation may become cause for public concern or require a general emergency response.

...

12.4.1.1 The Philippine Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Center (PARCC) shall have readily available at all times, up-to-date information concerning the following in respect of its search and rescue region:

...

c) means of communication that may be used in search and rescue operations;

...

12.4.1.2 ~~The~~ PARCC needs to have readily available all other information of interest to search and rescue, including information regarding:

12.4.1.3 ~~The~~ PARCC should have ready access to information regarding the position, course and speed of ships that may be able to provide assistance to aircraft in distress and information on how to contact these vessels.

...

12.4.2.4 The search and rescue plans of operation should contain details regarding actions to be taken by those persons engaged in search and rescue, including:

...

k) cooperative actions taken in conjunction with air traffic services units and other authorities concerned to assist aircraft known or believed to be subject ~~of~~ to unlawful interference.

...

12.5.2.3 Distress phase

...

d) notify other rescue coordination centers, the assistance of which seems likely to be required, or to which the SAR operation may be centered;

...

12.5.6.2 When a pilot-in-command observes that either another aircraft or a surface craft is in distress, the pilot shall, if possible and unless considered unreasonable or unnecessary:

...

ii. its position, expressed in geographical or grid coordinates or in distance and true;

...

iv. time of observation expressed in hours and minutes Coordinated Universal Time;

...

## **12.9 DISTRIBUTION**

12.9.1 This Civil Aviation Regulations-Air Navigation Services Part 12 shall be distributed to all entities concerned with the provision of search and rescue service in the Philippine Search and Rescue region. In particular, the following should seek guidance from this Regulation: Air Traffic Services facilities of the CAAP, airports, flight training schools, aircraft operators, Philippine Air Force-505th SRG, A3-PAF, Philippine Navy-PN3, Naval Air Group-Philippine Navy Philippine Fleet, Philippine Coast Guard-PCG3, PCG Air Group, ~~NDEC~~ **NDRRMC**, MMDCC, DOH, and other agencies involved in emergency response.

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## **AMENDED REGULATION AFTER REVISION:**

### **CIVIL AVIATION REGULATIONS – AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES PART 12**

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#### **12.1 DEFINITIONS**

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b) Secondary Rescue Units:

- 1) Department of Interior and Local Government, DILG and Local Government Units, LGUs
- 2) Philippine Red Cross, PRC
- 3) Department of Social Welfare and Development, DSWD
- 4) National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, NDRRMC

...

d) Other emergency relief organizations with SAR capable resources as may be called upon by PARCC.

- 1) In sparsely populated areas where communication systems are not developed, alerting posts shall be designated to relay by the most reliable and expeditious means, information concerning aircraft in distress.
- 2) PARCC shall endeavor to arrange for local authorities, vessels, and aircraft to cooperate fully in SAR operations, and take appropriate actions for the well-being of survivors of aircraft accidents.
- 3) The location, organization, and function of PARCC and its associated rescue sub-centers shall be published in the Aeronautical Information Publication of the Philippines (AIP) for information and proper dissemination.

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- d) the headquarters of search and rescue units in the region;
- e) maritime RCCs, aeronautical RCCs, and joint rescue coordination centers in adjacent regions;
- f) Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, PAGASA;
- g) search and rescue units, SRUs;
- h) alerting posts; and

- i) the COSPAS-SARSAT Mission Control Centre (MCC) and Local User Terminals (LUTs) servicing the region.

12.2.4.2 Each rescue sub-center, where provided, shall have means of rapid and reliable two-way communication with:

- a) the main RCC base facility;

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12.3.1.1.2 PARCC should, in so far as practicable, develop common search and rescue plans and procedures to facilitate coordination of search and rescue operations with those of neighboring States.

12.3.1.1.5 The Director General of CAAP shall:

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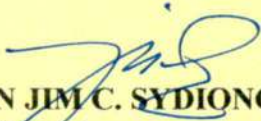
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xxx

*“End of Amendment”*

- i. **Separability Clause.** - If, for any reason, any provision of this Memorandum Circular is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other part or parts thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.
- ii. **Repealing Clause.** - All orders, rules, regulations and issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Memorandum Circular are hereby repealed, superseded or modified accordingly.
- iii. **Determination of changes.** – To highlight the amendments and/or revisions in the Memorandum Circular, the deleted text shall be shown with strikethrough and the new inserted text shall be highlighted with grey shading, as illustrated below:
  1. Text deleted: ~~Text to be deleted is shown with a line through it.~~
  2. New text inserted: New text is highlighted with grey shading.
  3. New text replacing existing text: ~~Text to be deleted is shown with a line through it~~ followed by the replacement text which is highlighted with grey shading.
- iv. **Effectivity Clause.** - This Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days following completion of its publication in a newspaper of general circulation or the Official Gazette and a copy filed with the U.P. Law Center - Office of the National Administrative Register. The amendment shall be incorporated to Philippine CAR-ANS in the next regular Amendment Cycle.

So Ordered. Signed this 14 day of MAY 2021, at the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, MIA Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila, 1301.

  
**CAPTAIN JIM C. SYDIONGCO**  
Director General