

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

The IRISH AVIATION AUTHORITY (IAA)

AND

The IRISH COAST GUARD (IRCG)



CONTENTS

<i>Introduction</i>	SAR Structure & Operation Structure & Operation of ARCC/ARSC Structure & Operation of MRCC/MRSC Search & Rescue Region (SSR) Boundaries
<i>Section 1</i>	General
<i>Section 2</i>	Routine Communications
<i>Section 3</i>	IRCG Helicopters
<i>Section 4</i>	Aviation Related Services
<i>Section 5</i>	Maritime SAR Services
<i>Section 6</i>	COSPAS/SARSAT
<i>Section 7</i>	Irish Lights Helicopter
<i>Section 8</i>	Temporary Restricted Areas Established for SAR Purposes
<i>Section 9</i>	Maritime Radio Navigation Warnings
<i>Section 10</i>	Aircraft Reports, Pollution & General
<i>Section 11</i>	Signatures to Memorandum of Understanding

MoU between the IAA and the IRCG

Amendments record Sheet

This is a controlled document. IAA HQ will issue amendments as approved under signature by the General Manager, IAA, Ballycasey. The Officer in Charge of the ARCC Shannon will maintain the original and true draft.

Date	Section	Page No.	Summary of Changes

INTRODUCTION

SAR STRUCTURE & OPERATION

Irish Coast Guard (IRCG)

IRCG has as part of its structure, a Marine Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) at Dublin and two MRSCs located at Malin Head and Valentia. See MAP at page 7 for areas of SAR responsibility.

The Irish Aviation Authority, on behalf of the Department of Transport, operates an Aviation Rescue Co-ordination Centre (ARCC) at Shannon Air Traffic Control Centre (ATCC) and a Rescue Sub-Centre (ARSC) at Dublin Air Traffic Control Centre.

Communications between ARCC/ARSC & IRISH COAST GUARD MRCC/MRSC

Communications during SAR incidents between the ARCC and ARSC and MRCC/MRSC will be effected electronically or verbally, as appropriate.

MRCC Dublin	Telephone:	01/6620922/6620923
	Fax:	01/6620795
	AFTN:	EIDWIMES (Receive only)
Shannon ARCC	Telephone:	061/474339 & 061/471233
	Fax:	061/474340 & 061/472955
	AFTN:	EINNYCYX

Shannon ARCC may delegate all or part of its responsibilities for rescue co-ordination (usually for incidents in the Dublin area), to:

Dublin Air Traffic Control Centre
Irish Aviation Authority
Huntstown
Cloghran
Co. Dublin

Telephone: 01/8444815 (manned H24 except Christmas day)
Fax: 01/8444814
AFTN: EIDWYCYX

INTRODUCTION ARCC and ARSC

1. Structure & Operation of ARCC

1.1 The Department of Transport while retaining overall responsibility for Aviation Search and Rescue Operations (ICAO Annex 12) has determined that the Irish Aviation Authority shall operate the ARCC requirements of ICAO Annex 12 as agent of the Department of Transport (Ref. ICAO Annex 12; S.I. No. 171 of 1995; S.I. No. 172 of 1995).

2. Aviation Search & Rescue Region

2.1 The Aviation Search and Rescue Region covers an area coincident with the Shannon FIR/UIR.

3. Irish Aviation Authority Aviation Rescue Coordination Structure

3.1 The Irish Aviation Authority has established an Aviation Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Shannon Air Traffic Control Centre.

Postal Address: Aviation Rescue Co-ordination Centre,
Irish Aviation Authority,
Air Traffic Services,
Ballycasey,
Shannon,
Co. Clare.

Telephone: (061) 474339 (dedicated line)
(061) 471233 (Switch)

Fax: (061) 474340

AFTN : EINNICYX

3.1.1 Shannon ARCC is the designated Rescue Co-ordination Centre for the Shannon ASAR Region.

3.2 The Irish Aviation Authority has established an Aviation Rescue Co-ordination Sub-Centre at Dublin Air Traffic Control Centre.

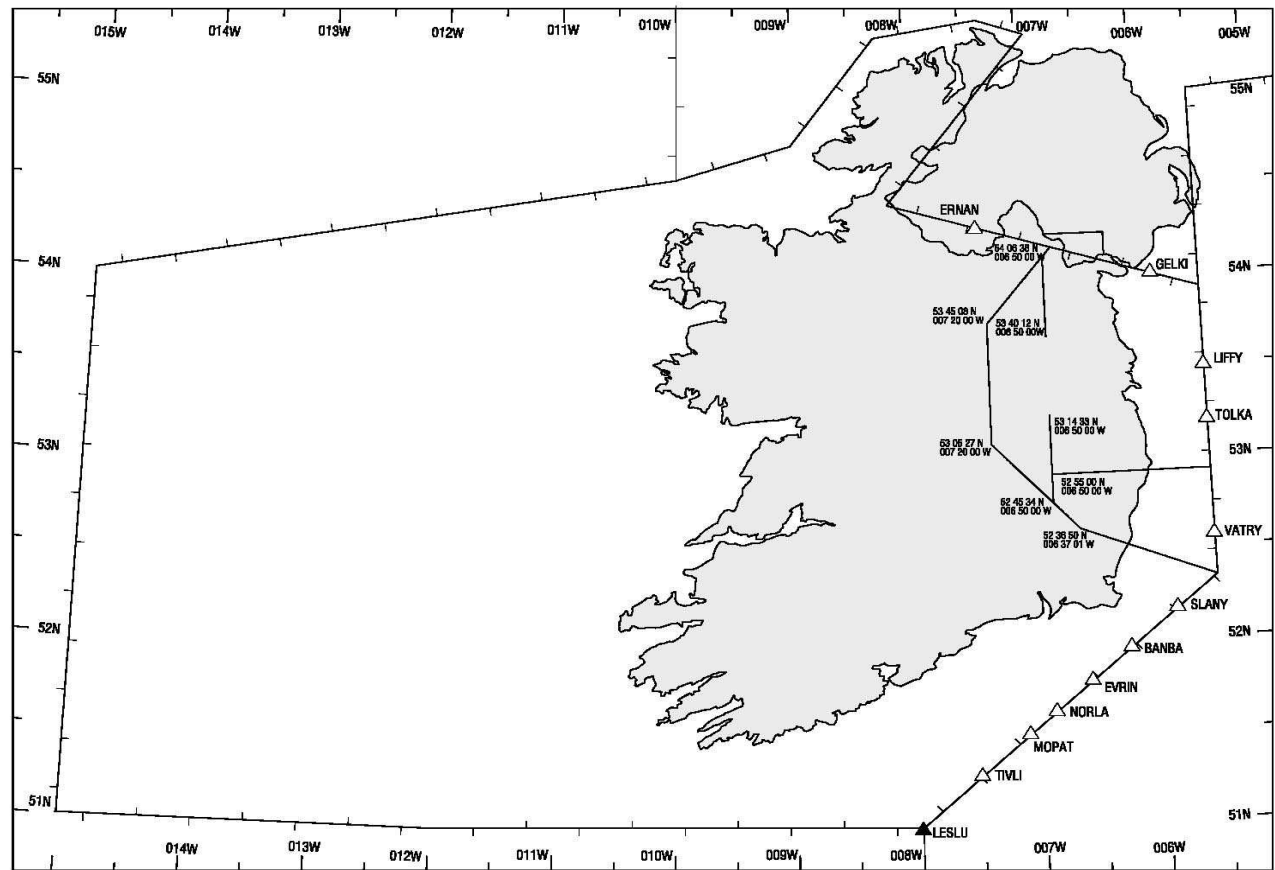
Postal Address: Aviation Rescue Coordination Sub-Centre
Irish Aviation Authority
Air Traffic Services
Control Tower Building
Huntstown
Cloghran
Co. Dublin

Telephone: (01) 8444815

Fax: (01) 8444814

AFTN : EIDWICYX

Shannon FIR/UIR



INTRODUCTION MRCC/MRSC

1. Structure & Operations of Irish Coast Guard MRCC/MRSC

- 1.1 The Department of Transport has responsibility for co-ordination of Maritime Search and Rescue as required by IMO International Convention on Maritime Search & Rescue (Hamburg) 1979 and Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974/92.

The Irish Coast Guard (IRCG) is the Division within the Department with delegated responsibility for Maritime Search and Rescue.

2. Maritime Search & Rescue Region

- 2.1 The Maritime Search & Rescue Region covers an area coincident with the Shannon FIR.

3. The IRCG Co-ordination Structure

- 3.1 IRCG has established a Marine Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) at IRCG Headquarters in Leeson Lane, Dublin, and two Marine Rescue Sub Centres (MRSC's) at Malin Head, County Donegal, and Valentia Island, Co. Kerry.

Postal Address: Marine Rescue Co-ordination Centre
Irish Coast Guard
Department of Transport
Leeson Lane
Dublin 2

Telephone No: H24 01/6620922 or 999/112 for emergencies

Fax: 01/6620795

AFTN: EIDWIMES

Postal Address: Malin Head MRSC
Irish Coast Guard
Malin, Co. Donegal

Telephone No: 074 9370103
Fax: 074 9370221

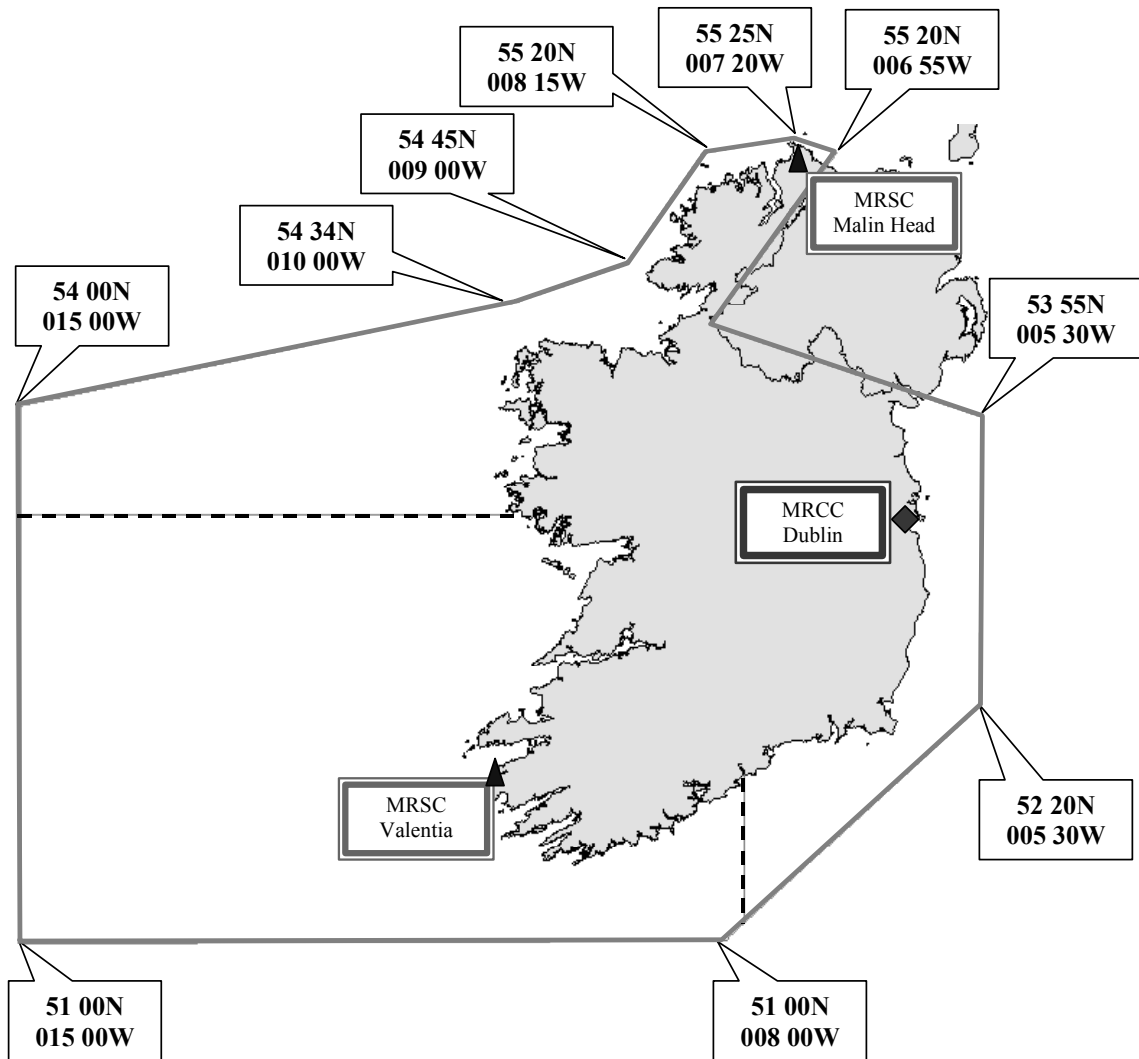
Postal Address: Valentia MRSC
Irish Coast Guard
Valentia Island
Co. Kerry

Telephone No. 066 9476109
Fax No. 066 9476289

1. The Valentia Division encompasses that part of the Irish SRR lying between the littoral area and the SRR boundary from Youghal, County Cork to Slyne Head, Co. Galway. (See attached map p. 8)
2. The Malin Head Division encompasses that part of the Irish SRR lying between the littoral area and the SAR boundary from Slyne Head, Co Galway to Inishowen, Co Donegal.
3. Valentia MRSC and Malin Head MRSC have delegated authority to co-ordinate all IRCG SAR operations in their respective divisional areas of responsibility within the Irish Search and Rescue Region (SRR).
4. Pollution response and salvage and wreck operations will remain with MRCC Dublin.

SEARCH & RESCUE REGION (SRR) BOUNDARIES

ICAO/IMO



55 20N 006 55W	-	55 25N 007 20W
55 20N 008 15W	-	54 45N 009 00W
54 34N 010 00W	-	54 00N 015 00W
51 00N 015 00W	-	51 00N 008 00W
52 20N 005 30W	-	53 55N 005 30W
54 25N 008 10W	-	52 20N 006 55W

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)

and

Irish Coast Guard (IRCG)

Section 1

General

1. In the event of an aviation emergency over a maritime or littoral area, ARCC/ARSC shall co-ordinate the incident in close liaison with MRCC/MRSC.
2. Should an aircraft force land in a maritime area, ARCC/ARSC shall be responsible for determining the initial search area, but co-ordination shall then transfer to MRCC/MRSC with continued close co-operation and back-up services from ARCC/ARSC.
3. Copies of relevant parts of operating procedures manual(s) shall be exchanged between IAA and IRCG.
4. In the event of an emergency meeting at the Irish Coast Guard Marine Emergency Room, requiring an aviation input, the Head of ARCC Shannon shall decide on the appropriate representation.
5. There shall be bi-lateral meetings at managerial level between IAA and IRCG at least on an annual basis.
6. Nothing in these procedures shall prevent ARCC/ARSC and MRCC/MRSC operations controllers from agreeing an alternative course of action, should such an alternative be considered more appropriate in the prevailing circumstances.

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)

and

Irish Coast Guard (IRCG)

Section 2

Routine Communications

1. Routine communication shall take place by means of documentary, electronic or verbal transfer.
2. ARCC/ARSC shall be included as information addressee in routine SITREPs issued by MRCC/MRSC where the incident may require or include an aviation response.

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)
and
Irish Coast Guard (IRCG)**

Section 3

IRCG Helicopters

1. IRCG Helicopters as a SAR resource may only be tasked by IRCG.
2. ARCC/ARSC may request the use of IRCG helicopters in the case of aviation SAR incidents, by contacting MRCC/MRSC.
3. IRCG shall be responsible for maintenance of routine safety checks (i.e. 15 minute reports) with IRCG SAR helicopters both on operational and training missions.
4. Should an IRCG helicopter fail to respond to routine safety check procedures, MRCC/MRSC shall immediately inform ARCC/ARSC giving such procedural details of the flight concerned as are necessary for further ARCC action.
5. Where 4 above applies ARCC/ARSC shall be responsible for the co-ordination of the SAR response.
6. Where IRCG helicopters are tasked in response to an aviation incident, ARCC/ARSC shall be responsible for initiation of appropriate Air Traffic Services.
7. Should an IRCG helicopter force land in a maritime area, ARCC/ARSC shall be responsible for determining the initial search area (except where the location is already known), but co-ordination shall then be transferred to MRCC/MRSC with appropriate back-up services from ARCC/ARSC.

Note: During such an incident, the aircraft may have established two-way communications with the relevant CRS. It may be deemed appropriate to continue such communications arrangements provided appropriate relay procedures with ARCC/ARSC are in place.

8. Where 4, 5, and 7 above apply; there shall be direct ARCC/ARSC/MRCC/MRSC contact, supported as necessary by documentary transfer.

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)

and

Irish Coast Guard (IRCG)

Section 4

Aviation Related Services

1. Where a maritime incident requires an aviation response, MRCC/MRSC shall liaise directly with agencies which may supply such resources. MRCC/MRSC shall be responsible for the provision of refuelling, accommodation, security and any additional related services.
2. Where aviation resources are required in response to an aviation incident, ARCC/ARSC shall be responsible for the provision of resources and any such support services as are required.
3. Where airport facilities for maritime related incidents are required outside the normal hours of availability of such facilities, MRCC shall be responsible for the call-out of such services as required.

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)

and

Irish Coast Guard (IRCG)

Section 5

Maritime SAR Services

1. Maritime SAR services shall remain, at all times, under the operational direction of IRCG.
2. Where an aviation incident requires a maritime response ARCC/ARSC shall be responsible for requesting from MRCC/MRSC such maritime resources as may be available to MRCC/MRSC.
3. Where 2 above applies, there shall be direct ARCC/ARSC/MRCC/MRSC contact for the purpose of agreement on the level of response required, etc, supported as necessary by documentary transfer.

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)
and
Irish Coast Guard (IRCG)**

Section 6

COSPAS/SARSAT

1. The Mission Control Centre (MCC) at RCC Kinloss shall advise MRCC of all relevant COSPAS/SARSAT reports.
2. ARCC/ARSC shall be responsible for initial co-ordination of Aeronautical COSPAS/SARSAT and ELT type incidents.
3. Transfer of co-ordination to MRCC shall take place when the location as calculated by merged solution as offshore or in the littoral area (i.e. coastal) **and** all aircraft in the vicinity have been accounted for.
4. MRCC may transfer coordination to MRSC Malin Head or Valentia as appropriate.
5. Subsequent to transfer of co-ordination MRCC or MRSC shall keep ARCC informed of all Mission Control Centre (MCC) reports.
6. ARCC/ARSC shall ensure relevant aircraft reports are communicated to MRCC.

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)

and

Irish Coast Guard (IRCG)

Section 7

Irish Lights Helicopter

1. IRCG will provide a position monitoring (flight watch) service for CIL's service contract helicopter through their coast radio service (CRS).
2. Should the Irish Lights helicopter fail to respond to routine safety check procedure, MRCC/MRSC shall immediately inform ARCC giving such procedural details of the flight concerned as are necessary for further ARCC/ARSC action.
3. Where 2 above applies ARCC/ARSC shall be responsible for the co-ordination of the SAR response.
4. Should the aircraft force land in a maritime area, ARCC/ARSC shall be responsible for determining the initial search area (except where the location is already known), but co-ordination shall then be transferred to MRCC/MRSC with appropriate back-up services from ARCC/ARSC.

Note: During such an incident, the aircraft may have established two-way communications with the CRS. It may be deemed appropriate to continue such communications arrangements, provided appropriate relay procedures with ARCC/ARSC are in place.

5. Where 2, and/or 4 apply, there shall be direct ARCC/ARSC/MRCC, MRSC contact, supported as necessary by documentary transfer.

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)

and

Irish Coast Guard (IRCG)

Section 8

***Temporary Restricted Areas
Established for SAR Purposes***

1. ARCC/ARSC shall be the co-ordinating agency for establishment of Temporary Restricted Areas when so required for SAR purposes.
2. Clearance to enter, operate in or leave any of the above mentioned areas shall be obtained from the appropriate ATS units.

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)

and

Irish Coast Guard (IRCG)

Section 9

Maritime Radio Navigational Warnings

1. IRCG shall be the co-ordinating agency for Maritime Radio Navigational Warnings.

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)

and

Irish Coast Guard (IRCG)

Section 10

Aircraft Reports, Pollution & General

1. Aircraft reports of sea pollution or other maritime interest, received by ATS units shall be immediately transmitted to MRCC.
2. MRCC may request the ATS unit concerned to obtain further relevant reports. Such reports shall be immediately transmitted to MRCC.

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)

and

Irish Coast Guard (IRCG)

Section 11

Signatures to Memorandum of Understanding

Chris Reynolds
Director
Irish Coast Guard

Aidan Fox
General Manager
Irish Aviation Authority
ANS Ballycasey
Shannon
County Clare

Date:

Date: