

SAFETY INFORMATION 03/2023

14 February 2023



AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER (ATC) – PROVIDING ALERTING SERVICES TO TRAFFIC IN UNCONTROLLED AIRSPACE IN THE EVENT OF LOSS COMMUNICATION

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This Safety Information (SI) is to remind air traffic services personnel on the procedures of managing traffic in uncontrolled airspace in the event of loss communication. This SI also provides guidelines on alerting services in accordance with the requirements mandated in Civil Aviation Directives (CAD 11).

2 Background

- 2.1 Provision of alerting services fulfils one of the objectives of Air Traffic Services (ATS), i.e., to notify appropriate organisations regarding aircraft in need of search and rescue aid, and to assist such organisations as required. The appropriate organisations include, but not limited to:
- a) Flight Information Centres;
 - b) Area Control Centres;
 - c) Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC); and
 - d) The Operator (of the aircraft).
- 2.2 Flight Information Centres or Area Control Centres shall serve as the central point for collecting all information relevant to a state of emergency of an aircraft operating within the flight information region or control area concerned and for forwarding such information to the appropriate rescue coordination centre.
- 2.3 Without prejudice to any other circumstances that may render such notification advisable, ATS Unit shall notify Rescue Coordination Centre immediately when an aircraft is considered to be in a state of emergency (e.g., loss of communication) in accordance with the following:
- a) Uncertainty phase (INCERFA);
 - b) Alert phase (ALERFA); and
 - c) Distress phase (DETRESFA).

2.4 Action by Air Traffic Controller in the Event of Loss Communication

- a) Use all available communication facilities to endeavour, to establish and maintain communication with an aircraft that loss communication, and to request news of the aircraft;
- b) When no report from an aircraft has been received within a reasonable period of time after a scheduled or expected reporting time, the ATS Unit shall, within the stipulated period of thirty minutes, notify Rescue Coordination Centre immediately and declare emergency phase i.e., INCERFA;
- c) Furnish ARCC, without delay, any useful additional information, especially on the development of the state of emergency through subsequent phases; and
- d) Shall immediately bring to the attention of the ATS Unit Responsible Officer in the case of Regional Directors, their representatives or the senior controller on duty of any incident concerning the safety of an aircraft or any irregularity, which may require investigation.

2.4.1 Air Traffic Controllers are strongly advised to make sure high situational awareness is maintained at all times when managing traffic in an uncontrolled airspace.

2.4.2 For further information, kindly refer to the following documents:

- a) CAD 11
- b) MATS VOLUME 1 & 2



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