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COMSAR/Circ.3
19 April 1996

Ref. T2/6.04

RELATIONS BETWEEN NAVAREA CO-ORDINATORS
AND RESCUE CO-ORDINATION CENTRES

1   The Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR), at its first session (19 to 23 February 1996), agreed (COMSAR 1/30, paragraph 5.5) that it was necessary that messages concerning search and rescue (SAR) operations only be accepted by a NAVAREA Co-ordinator for broadcast if they have been received from an authorized SAR authority in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4.2.1.3.7 of resolution A.706(17) on the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service. It, therefore, prepared the guidance on relations between NAVAREA Co-ordinators and rescue co-ordination centres, given at annex.

2   Member Governments are invited to bring the annex to the attention of their SAR authorities and, where applicable (see COMSAR/Circ.5), to their NAVAREA Co-ordinator.

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ANNEX

**RELATIONS BETWEEN NAVAREA CO-ORDINATORS
AND RESCUE CO-ORDINATION CENTRES**

1   The co-ordinating RCC is responsible for distress alert relay and SAR co-ordinating communications.

2   Therefore, the RCC concerned needs to be able to originate SafetyNET broadcasts and have an direct arrangement with a CES.

3   Only after SAR operations have been stood down after a fruitless search, or after failing to find a ship alongside in a port search, or when a ship is several days overdue and contact cannot be established, should an RCC consider requesting the NAVAREA Co-ordinator to broadcast a NAVAREA warning.

4   Under these circumstances, the NAVAREA Co-ordinator has discretion as to whether to broadcast a SAR NAVAREA warning or not. However, any SAR NAVAREA warning that is broadcast should always be self-cancelling after 48 hours.

5   The RCC must always keep the NAVAREA Co-ordinator informed of any subsequent information he may receive concerning the ship or ships referred to in the SAR NAVAREA warning broadcast.

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