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Ref.: AN 11/1.1.29-24/16

25 June 2024

Subject: Notification on the operational availability of the Location of an Aircraft in Distress Repository (LADR)

Action required: States to request aircraft operators, ATS unit area control centres and rescue coordination centres to register in the LADR

Sir/Madam,

1. I have the honour to inform you that the location of an aircraft in distress repository (LADR) is now operational. The LADR is a critical part of the Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS), providing the means to store and make available all information related to the position of an aircraft in distress, as described in Annex 6 — *Operation of Aircraft, Part I — International Commercial Air Transport — Aeroplanes*, 6.18.

2. The LADR has been developed by the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL), in close cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and following the requirements of the *Functional Specifications for the Location of an Aircraft in Distress Repository (LADR)* (Doc 10150). The initial operational phase of the LADR has been delivered to meet the minimum required functions, and further developments are expected throughout 2024 to transition the system to full operational capability. Nevertheless, the current system fulfils the basic requirements to store and display position information and notify registered users when new information becomes available.

3. In developing the system, the OPS Control Directory, formerly hosted by ICAO, was also transferred to EUROCONTROL and will act as the means by which users will be authorized for the use of the LADR. The following categories of users are defined in the Directory:

- a) operators of aircraft;
- b) air traffic services (ATS) units responsible for the management of a flight information region (FIR), or portion thereof;

- c) rescue coordination centres (RCCs) responsible for the coordination of search and rescue services; and
- d) State representatives, in accordance with Annex 6, Part I, 6.18 who intend to provide access to authorized individuals not meeting any of the above descriptions.

4. The OPS Control Directory itself provides a means to establish contact, primarily between aircraft operators and ATS units, in the event of any uncertainty regarding the safety of an aircraft. It was also established in response to the aircraft tracking Standards of Annex 6, Part I, 3.5 as a place to obtain operational contact information which would be needed in such situations. The transfer of the OPS Control Directory to EUROCONTROL has permitted the inclusion of functionality to allow RCCs to register in the system. With the functionality enabled, it is recommended that RCCs register in the system.

5. Each organization represented in the OPS Control Directory (i.e., aircraft operator, ATS unit, RCC or State) will be required to nominate a single focal point user. The focal point will be responsible for updating the operational contact details of the organization (where appropriate) and will also be able to authorize additional users from the same organization with access to the Directory. Access to the LADR is provided directly through the OPS Control Directory and, therefore, users will also be authorized by the organizational focal point should they need to access the LADR.

6. The Attachment provides details of the information required to register a focal point account with OPS Control/LADR. Upon receipt of this information, ICAO will set up the focal point account in the OPS Control Directory and allocate to the focal point responsibility for the relevant 3-letter designator, FIR or RCC as appropriate.

7. Requests for focal point registration should be sent to aircrafttracking@icao.int. Please note that if an organization has previously registered for the ICAO hosted OPS Control Directory, this information will be transferred to the new system and there is no requirement to submit a new request.

8. Authentication is provided using the Data Network for Aviation (DNA) platform (<https://www4.icao.int/dna>); therefore, to access the system, all users, including focal point and additional authorized users, must also request a DNA account. This account must be created with the same email used to register for the OPS Control Directory which allows both accounts to be linked to provide authentication and authorization.

9. I would be grateful if your Administration would encourage the completion of this action as soon as possible.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Juan Carlos Salazar
Secretary General

Enclosure:

Information required to be submitted when requesting a focal point

ATTACHMENT to State letter AN 11/1.1.29-24/16

**INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED WHEN
REQUESTING A FOCAL POINT
ACCOUNT TO ACCESS THE OPS CONTROL DIRECTORY AND LADR**

User Category	Focal Point information	Organizational information
Operator	Full name and Email address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3-letter designator(s) in use by the operator ▪ Telephony designator(s) in use by the operator ▪ Operator name
Air traffic services unit (ATSU)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4-letter location indicator of FIR(s) ▪ Name(s) of FIR(s) managed by the ATSU
Rescue coordination centre (RCC)		RCC name and 4-letter location indicator of the search and rescue region (SRR) (if available)
State representative		State name

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