

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION
4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR

Telephone: 020-7735 7611
Fax: 020-7587 3210
Telex: 23588 IMOLDN G



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GUIDANCE ON DATA FIELDS FOR SAR DATABASES

- 1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-second session (17 to 26 May 2000), approved the annexed Guidance on data fields for SAR databases.
- 2 Member Governments are invited to use the annexed Guidance when collecting SAR data and bring it to the attention of all parties concerned.

ANNEX

GUIDANCE ON DATA FIELDS FOR SAR DATABASES

Part 1 - Basic Data Fields

The Incident division concerns the overview of the actions taken the elements in this division are:

SAR CASE (field is binary function, Y/N, default blank) This field exists because RCCs may be using this database to record emergency assistance other than SAR (IAMSAR Draft 4 volume 2, Chapter 7) or other work the RCC is tasked to handle. Generally, it is more efficient to build and use one database than to create a series of databases.

RCC (field is set to the RCC name) i.e. Victoria

INCIDENT NUMBER (field is numeric, 6 digits, system generated) Each incident must be uniquely identified to prevent the duplication of records. Ideally, it should be system generated. It is not recommended to include the year as part of the incident number as the year is recorded separately as part of the record.

START DATE (field is numeric, 8 digits, default current system date, format YYYYMMDD)

START TIME (field is numeric, 4 digits, default current system, format HHMM in UTC) The Start Date and Time is the date and time that the RCC was alerted.

INCIDENT DATE (format as per START DATE, default blank)

INCIDENT TIME (format as per START TIME, default blank) This shall be the earliest time for one of the following events, search object declared distress, the time an electronic beacon was activated or an observer noted the search object in distress.

SMC (field is binary function, Y/N, default blank) This designates that either the RCC was SMC at some point for the SAR incident or was assisting another RCC with the incident.

SMC START DATE (format as per START DATE, default blank)

SMC START TIME (format as per START TIME, default blank)

SMC END DATE (format as per START DATE, default blank)

SMC END TIME (format as per START TIME, default blank) These four fields are only recorded if the RCC assumed SMC or turned over SMC to another responsible authority.

SEARCH OBJECT LATITUDE (format DDMM.MX, default blank)

SEARCH OBJECT LONGITUDE (format DDDMM.MY, default blank) This is the datum point's geographical position where D is the degrees, M is minutes and decimal minutes, X is either N or S and Y is either E or W.

OBJECT FOUND LATITUDE (format DDMM.MX, default blank)

OBJECT FOUND LONGITUDE (format DDMM.MX, default blank) This is the geographical position where the search object was found, where D is the degrees, M is minutes and decimal minutes, X is either N or S and Y is either E or W. This is to remain blank if the search object was never found.

DISTANCE OFFSHORE (field is numeric, 4 digits, default blank) This field is only for maritime incidents expressed in nautical miles.

WHO ALERTED (field is numeric, 1 digit, default blank) This field uses a limited list to categorize who alerted the RCC.

1. Search Object
2. Relayed (when the Search Object cannot directly transmit to the RCC)
3. MCC (COSPAS-SARSAT MCCs are not included in "Relayed")
4. Observer
5. RCC

INCIDENT TYPE (field is numeric, 1 digit, default blank) This field uses a limited list to categorize the type of incident.

1. Distress
2. Precautionary Assistance
3. Hoax (a deliberate false activation of the system intended to misuse resources)
4. False Alert (a distress alert received when no distress situation resulted and no notification of distress should have resulted)
5. Not Found (a distress alert received but not resolved)
6. Medical (Medical evacuation and MEDICO)

Search Object is the division describing the object.

SEARCH OBJECT NAME (field is alphanumeric, 32 characters, default blank) This field combined with the next two fields offers a unique identity for the search object. Name should be either the name of the vessel, family name of the Captain or Commander if it is an aircraft or a vessel with no name or primary person's family name (in the case of a diver, swimmer or driver of a motor vehicle).

SEARCH OBJECT OFFICIAL NUMBER (field is alphanumeric, 16 characters, default blank) Filled if, if available.

SEARCH OBJECT RADIO CALLSIGN (field is alphanumeric, 16 characters, default blank) This is the callsign found on the ITU lists.

NATIONALITY OF SEARCH OBJECT (field is alphanumeric, 32 characters, default blank) Self explanatory.

TYPE OF SEARCH OBJECT (field is numeric, two digits, default blank) This field uses a limited list to generally describe the initial search object.

1. SOLAS Passenger
2. SOLAS Non-passenger
3. Non-SOLAS Passenger
4. Non-SOLAS Non-Passenger
5. Fishing Vessel
6. Pleasure Craft Motor with Accommodation
7. Pleasure Craft Motor without Accommodation
8. Pleasure Craft Sail with Accommodation
9. Pleasure Craft Sail without Accommodation
10. Pleasure Craft Recreation (Air beds, toys etc.)
11. Government Non-military Vessel
12. Military Vessel
13. Submarine

14. Non-powered Aircraft or Balloon
15. Rotary Wing Commercial
16. Rotary Wing General Aviation
17. Rotary Wing Government Non-military
18. Rotary Wing Military
19. Fixed Wing Commercial
20. Fixed Wing General Aviation
21. Fixed Wing Government Non-military
22. Fixed Wing Military
23. Automobile
24. Truck/Lorry
25. Person (diver, swimmer, parachutist, jumper/suicide)

POB (field is numeric, 4 digits, default value 1) The number of persons aboard the search object.

LIVES LOST BEFORE NOTIFICATION (field is numeric, 4 digits, default value blank)

LIVES LOST AFTER NOTIFICATION (field is numeric, 4 digits, default value blank)

LIVES SAVED (field is numeric, 4 digits, default value blank) This field is the number of lives delivered to a place of refuge (i.e., port, aerodrome, hospital, reception facility).

VALUE OF PROPERTY SAVED (field is numeric, 10 digits, default blank) This is the value that is referred to in IAMSAR Draft 4, Volume 1 Sections 5.6.7 and 5.6.10.

SAR Facilities is the division that describes in general terms the facilities used. Specifics would be found under the amplifying data category.

TYPE AND NUMBER (field is alphanumeric, nine characters, format ANNGNNMNN, default is A00G00M00) This is the collective type and number of SAR facilities used, where the letter A is for Aeronautical, M for Maritime, G for Ground. N is for the number of each unit. e.g., A04G00M03 refers to four aeronautical SAR facilities, three maritime and no ground

SORTIES (field is numeric, 4 digits, default is blank) This is the collective number of sorties during the incident.

DATE TASKED (format as per START DATE, default blank)

TIME TASKED (format as per START TIME, default blank) This group is for the date/time that the first SAR facility was tasked. If the SAR facility is on-scene when the incident began then this field is left blank.

DATE ON-SCENE (format as per START DATE, default blank)

TIME ON-SCENE (format as per START TIME, default blank) This group is for the date/time for the first SAR facility to arrive on-scene. If the SAR facility is on-scene when the incident began then this field is left blank.

DATE SEARCH OBJECT FOUND (format as per START DATE, default blank)

TIME SEARCH OBJECT FOUND (format as per START TIME, default blank) If the SAR Facility is on-scene when the incident began then this field is left blank.

DATE SEARCH ENDED (format as per START DATE, default blank)
TIME SEARCH ENDED (format as per START TIME, default blank) Self explanatory.

DATE NORMAL (format as per START DATE, default blank)
TIME NORMAL (format as per START TIME, default blank) The date/time that the last SAR facility returns to the function or location it was in before it was involved in the incident.

FORMAL SEARCH PLAN (field is binary function, Y/N, default blank)

AMOUNT OF AREA SEARCHED (field is numeric, 7 digits, default blank) The calculated total area searched without overlap expressed in square nautical miles.

Part 2 - Amplifying Data Fields - EXAMPLE

WEATHER is the division that describes the weather at the time of the alert. Codes that are used in this division are those published by the WMO, Publication 306, Volume 1.1 Part A. It is important to recognize that the database fields and the operator input screen may not contain identical views. For example, visibility may be observed at greater than 50 nautical miles and recorded in this database as code 99.

Weather does not form part of the basic data fields for two reasons. First, weather may not be a significant factor in every distress case and second, not every field would be recorded in every case.

For the elements of this division, only weather that has caused the incident or a significant deterioration in the weather should be recorded. This division should be repeated and tagged with the date/time when more than one observation is recorded.

DATE WEATHER (format as per START DATE, default blank)
TIME WEATHER (format as per START TIME, default blank)

WIND SPEED
WIND DIRECTION

AIR TEMPERATURE
SEA TEMPERATURE

SEA STATE
SWELL HEIGHT
SEA ICE CONDITIONS

CLOUD COVER
CLOUD CEILING

VISIBILITY
PRECIPITATION

SAR Facilities information that will amplify the basic data is recorded for each SAR Facility that was used in the incident. Each set of fields will be tagged to the type and name.

SAR FACILITY TYPE (field is alphanumeric, 1 character, format T, default blank) This is a generic description of type where T is A, G or M for Aeronautical, Ground or Maritime.

SAR FACILITY NAME (field is alphanumeric, 32 characters, default blank)

SAR FACILITY RADIO CALLSIGN (field is alphanumeric, 16 characters, default blank) This is the callsign found on the ITU lists.

SAR FACILITY NATIONALITY (field is alphanumeric, 32 characters, default blank)

SAR FACILITY DATE TASKED (format as per START DATE, default blank)

SAR FACILITY TIME TASKED (format as per START TIME, default blank)

SAR FACILITY DATE RESPONDED (format as per START DATE, default blank)

SAR FACILITY TIME RESPONDED (format as per START TIME, default blank)

SAR FACILITY DATE ON-SCENE (format as per START DATE, default blank)

SAR FACILITY TIME ON-SCENE (format as per START TIME, default blank)

SAR FACILITY SORTIES (field is numeric, 4 digits, default is blank) The number of sorties conducted by this SAR facility.

SAR FACILITY DOWN-TIME (field is numeric, 6 digits, format DDHHMM) This records time while assigned to a SAR incident where the SAR facility had to refuel, conduct repairs, trade fresh crew for fatigued crew, or any other reason that the SAR facility was not conducting SAR operations.

NUMBER LIVES RESCUED (field is numeric, 4 digits, default value 0)

NUMBER DECEASED RECOVERED (field is numeric, 4 digits, default value 0)

SAR FACILITY DATE RELEASED (format as per START DATE, default blank)

SAR FACILITY TIME RELEASED (format as per START TIME, default blank)

SAR FACILITY DATE NORMAL (format as per START DATE, default blank)

SAR FACILITY TIME NORMAL (format as per START TIME, default blank)
