

	<p>REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA</p> <p>CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY</p>	<p>CAA Private Bag x08 Waterkloof 0145</p>
<p>Tel: (012) 346-5566 Fax: (012) 346-6059 E-Mail: mail@caa.co.za</p>	<p>AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR</p>	<p>AIC 41-8 01-05-15</p>

AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES

SEARCH AND RESCUE: SPACE SYSTEM FOR SEARCH OF VESSELS IN DISTRESS (COSPAS) SEARCH AND RESCUE SATELLITE AIDED TRACKING (SARSAT)

1. *The COSPAS-SARSAT system is a satellite aided Search and Rescue system designated to locate distress beacons transmitting on the frequencies 121,5 or 406 MHZ.*
2. *There are at present three (3) types of satellite beacons, namely Emergency Locator Transmitter, ELT's (airborne), Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon, EPIRB's (maritime) and Personal Locator Beacon, PLB's (land). These beacons transmit signals that are detected by the COSPAS-SARSAT polar-orbiting satellites equipped with suitable receivers/processors. The signals are then relayed to a ground receiving station, called a Local User Terminal (LUT), which processes the signals to determine the beacon location. An alert is relayed, together with location data and other information, via a Mission Control Centre (MCC), either to a national Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC), or to the appropriate Search and Rescue Authority to initiate Search and Rescue activities.*
3. *South Africa's formal association with the COSPAS-SARSAT program became effective on 2 November 2000. Resulting from its association with the COSPAS-SARSAT program South Africa is designated a "Ground segment provider" with an LUT and an MCC established in Cape Town.*
4. *At present the system is at the Initial Operational Capability (IOC). It is envisaged that the system will be at Full Operational Capability (FOC) by middle May 2001.*
5. *IN agreement with the United Kingdom MCC, the South African MCC will take over the responsibility for the dissemination of Alert data to following states once FOC has been achieved:*

Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
6. *At present the United Kingdom MCC, provides 121.5 MAND 406 MHZ alert data to amongst others, the Search and Rescue Points of Contact (SPOC's) of the above mentioned Southern African States.*

COMMISSIONER FOR CIVIL AVIATION