

Regulation of 10 August 1956 No. 3410 concerning the air rescue service

Extract from the Ministry of Transport and Communication's regulation concerning the air rescue service. Cf. Chapter V Regulation 16 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea. Amended 1 February 1978, 28 February 1978.

Chapter 3 in «Guidelines for Implementation of a Search and Rescue Operation at Sea» reads as follows:

1. Signals to vessels
When it is necessary for an aircraft to direct a vessel to the site of an aircraft or surface craft in distress, the aircraft shall give exact directions using the means which it has at its disposal. If such exact directions cannot be given, or if other conditions make it necessary, the directions shall be given as described in 3.1.2.
2. When an aircraft performs the following manoeuvres in sequence it implies that the aircraft wishes to direct a vessel to an aircraft or a surface craft in distress:
 - a) circling the vessel at least once
 - b) crossing the projected course close ahead of the vessel at low altitude, and at the same time either:
 - 1) flapping its wings, or
 - 2) opening and closing the throttle, or
 - 3) changing the propeller pitch.
 - c) Heading in the direction in which the vessel is to be directed. Repetition of the above manoeuvres has the same meaning.
3. When an aircraft performs the following manoeuvres it means that the assistance of the vessel to which the signal is directed is no longer required: a) Crossing the wake of the vessel close astern at low altitude, and at the same time either:
 - 1) flapping its wings, or
 - 2) opening and closing the throttle, or
 - 3) changing the propeller pitch.
4. It is not permitted for an aircraft to fly as described above unless for the purpose of giving a distress signal

Observation to Section 1:

A vessel shall indicate that the directions are received by:

- a) hoisting the international «answering pennants» (vertical red and white stripes) to the masthead (meaning that the directions are understood);
- b) continually sending the Morse sign «T» by means of a signalling lamp;
- c) changing course.

In order to indicate that it is unable to follow the directions, a vessel shall:

- a) hoist the international signal flag «N» (quadrangular flag with blue and white squares);
- b) continually send the Morse sign «N» by means of a signalling lamp.

Observation to Section 2:

For reasons of the high level of noise on board ships, the signals in 2) and 3) above may be less effective than the visual signal in 1), and are therefore considered alternative ways of attracting attention.

Observation to Section 3:

Cf. observation to 2 b.

Amended by regulation of 24 October 1994 No. 976.