



MINISTRY OF ROADS AND TRANSPORT

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO THE CIVIL AVIATION (AERONAUTICAL SEARCH AND RESCUE) REGULATIONS, 2025

Name of the statutory instrument	Kenya Gazette Supplement No. Legislative Supplement No.
Name of the Parent Act	The Civil Aviation Act (CAP 394)
Enacted Pursuant to	Section 82
Name of the Ministry	Ministry of Roads and Transport
Gazetted on	, 2025
Tabled on	

1. Purpose of the Statutory Instrument

The purpose of the instrument is to contribute towards the safety, regularity and efficiency of air navigation. It provides for compliance to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) requirements in the development and maintenance of the Aeronautical Search and Rescue services in Kenya.

2. Legislative Context

The Aeronautical Search and Rescue within civil aviation are a critical component to the management of safe and secure operations within the civil aviation industry. Aeronautical Search and Rescue forms an original line of defense against risks that reside within the operational environment as it ensures safe operations of aircraft within the Kenyan airspace. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

has published Annex 12 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation which provides international Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) as a basis for Contracting States to develop Aeronautical Search and Rescue Regulations. Kenya as a signatory of the Chicago Convention and a member of ICAO has undertaken to comply with these SARPs by ensuring their effective implementation within the Kenyan aviation industry as is its obligation under Article 37 to the Convention. To fulfil this obligation, promulgation of the Aeronautical Search and Rescue Regulations is critical to ensure compliance with ICAO requirements.

3. Policy Background

The purpose of the Civil Aviation Act is to ensure “control, regulation and orderly development of civil aviation in Kenya”. The Act establishes the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) whose object and purpose is to economically and efficiently plan, develop and manage civil aviation.

Aeronautical Search and Rescue is a critical safety component of the civil aviation system, hence the need for effective regulation of the Aeronautical Search and Rescue within the civil aviation system to meet international standards established by ICAO. It is Kenya’s policy to promote and facilitate civil aviation activities by ensuring flights are operated in a safe and orderly manner under the Aeronautical Search and Rescue Regulations. The policy objective therefore is to provide a regulatory framework to support the provision of Aeronautical Search and Rescue within the civil aviation sector throughout the country.

This policy is consistent with the existing legislation and will assist in the development of specific regulations for Aeronautical Search and Rescue.

The Integrated National Transport Policy, 2012, aims to create an enabling framework that will nurture the development of a safe, efficient and affordable air transport system, whilst keeping at the leading edge of technological advancement in a rapidly changing and globalize environment. In addition, the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority developed procedures for development and amendment of the Civil Aviation Act, Regulations, and Technical Guidance Materials through Order CAA-O-GEN002F. The procedures provide for continuous monitoring of the

aviation regulatory framework to align with ICAO SARPs through periodic review of applicable laws.

4. Consultation Outcome

In the development of the Aeronautical Search and Rescue stakeholder engagement meetings were held on various dates as follows:

- a) Stakeholder Engagement - Virtual Session (14th to 18th June 2021 at the Four Points Hotel, Nairobi);
- b) Stakeholder Engagement - 14th and 15th February 2022 at the Ole Sereni Hotel, Nairobi; and
- c) Stakeholder Validation Engagements (6th to 8th May 2024 and 12th to 14th June 2024 at the Panari Hotel, Nairobi).

The list of attendees and the report of the consultations is attached as Appendix 1.

5. Regulatory Impact Assessment

A regulatory impact assessment was prepared in respect of this statutory instrument. The Ministry received an expert opinion from the Kenya Law Reform Commission confirming that the regulatory impact statement and assessment were adequate and conformed with the Statutory Instruments Act.

6. Monitoring and Review

As part of the KCAA mandate provided for under the Civil Aviation Act, shall be responsible for ensuring the effective implementation of the Aeronautical Search and Rescue Regulations.

7. Contact

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