

Excerpt from Annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation of 1944, 12th Edition, July 2005

Chapter 8

C. Relief flights following natural and man-made disaster which seriously endanger human health or the environment, and similar emergency situations where United Nations (UN) assistance is required

8.8 Contracting States shall facilitate the entry into, departure from and transit through their territories of aircraft engaged in relief flights performed by or on behalf of international organizations recognized by the UN or by or on behalf of States themselves and shall take all possible measures to ensure their safe operation. Such relief flights are those undertaken in response to natural and man-made disasters, which seriously endanger human health or the environment, as well as similar emergency situations where UN assistance is required. Such flights shall be commenced as quickly as possible after obtaining agreement with the recipient State.

Note 1. – According to its Internationally Agreed Glossary of Basic Terms, the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs considers an emergency to be “a sudden and usually unforeseen event that calls for immediate measures to minimize its adverse consequences”, and a disaster to be “a serious disruption of the functioning of society, causing widespread human, material or environmental losses which exceed the ability of the affected society to cope using only its own resources”.

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8.9 Contracting States shall ensure that personnel and articles arriving on relief flights referred to in 8.8 are cleared without delay.

D. Marine pollution and safety emergency operations

8.10 In cases of emergency, Contracting States shall facilitate the entry, transit and departure of aircraft engaged in the combating or prevention of marine pollution, or other operations necessary to ensure maritime safety, safety of the population or protection of the marine environment.

8.11 In cases of emergency Contracting States shall, to the greatest extent possible, facilitate the entry, transit and departure of persons, cargo, material and equipment required to deal with the marine pollution and safety operations described in 8.10.