



Resolution 6 (2017) - ATCM XL - CEP XX, Beijing

Guidelines on Contingency Planning, Insurance and Other Matters for Tourist and Other Non-Governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area

The Representatives;

Welcoming the entry into force of the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code);

Remaining concerned at the potential impacts, including the imposition of additional costs, that tourist or other non-governmental activities may have on national programmes, and the risk to the safety of those involved in search and rescue operations;

Desiring to ensure that tourist or other non-governmental activities undertaken in Antarctica are carried out in a safe and self-sufficient manner;

Desiring further to ensure that the risks associated with tourist or other nongovernmental activities are fully identified in advance, and minimised;

Recalling the "Procedures to be Followed by Organisers and Operators", as set out in the Guidance for Visitors to the Antarctic, and the Guidance for Those Organising and Conducting Tourism and Non-governmental Activities in the Antarctic annexed to Recommendation XVIII-1;

Noting Measure 4 (2004) Insurance and Contingency Planning for Tourism and Non-governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area, and desiring to take certain steps before it enters into effect to promote its objectives in addition to recommending further guidelines to be followed by those organising or conducting activities without the supervision or support in the field of another operator or a national programme;

Recommend that:

1. Parties should require those under their jurisdiction organising or conducting tourist or other non-governmental activities in the Antarctic Treaty area, for which advance notification is required in accordance with paragraph 5 of Article VII of the Antarctic Treaty, to follow the Guidelines annexed to this Resolution; and
2. the Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty post the text of Resolution 4 (2004) Guidelines on Contingency Planning, Insurance and Other Matters for Tourist and Other Non-governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area on its website in a way that makes clear that it is no longer current.



Annex: Guidelines on Contingency Planning, Insurance and Other Matters for Tourist and Other Non-Governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area

- 1.** Those organising or conducting tourist or other non-governmental activities in the Antarctic Treaty area should ensure: a. that appropriate contingency plans and sufficient arrangements for health and safety, search and rescue (“SAR”), and medical care and evacuation have been drawn-up and are in place prior to the start of the activity. Such plans and arrangements should not be reliant on support from other operators or national programmes without their express written agreement; and
b. that adequate insurance or other arrangements are in place to cover any costs associated with SAR and medical care and evacuation.
- 2.** Competent authorities may specify the format in which they would prefer to receive information pertaining to paragraph 1a of these guidelines and the equivalent requirement in Measure 4 (2004).
- 3.** Where a competent authority so decides, a ship-based operator may provide a copy of the Polar Water Operational Manual required under the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code), or relevant parts thereof, as part of demonstrating compliance with the maritime components of the requirements referred to in paragraph 2.
- 4.** The following guidelines should also be observed in particular by those organising or conducting activities without the supervision or support in the field of another operator or a national programme: a. participants have sufficient and demonstrable experience appropriate for the proposed activity operating in polar, or equivalent, environments. Such experience may include survival training in cold or remote areas, flying, sailing or operating other vehicles in conditions and over distances similar to those being proposed in the activity;
b. all equipment, including clothing, communication, navigational, emergency and logistic equipment is in sound working order, with sufficient backup spares and suitable for effective operation under Antarctic conditions;
c. all participants are proficient in the use of such equipment;
d. all participants are medically, physically and psychologically fit to undertake the activity in Antarctica;
e. adequate first-aid equipment is available during the activity and that at least one participant is proficient in advanced first-aid.