

Safety Recommendation Number:	IRLD2021035
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Safety Recommendation Status:	Implemented, closed

Safety Recommendation:

The Minister for Transport should review the SAR/HEMS Decision Tree and all arrangements regarding the tasking of SAR helicopters to ensure that there is maximum clarity in the tasking process and that HEMS missions are not conducted under provisions which should only apply to SAR missions.

Response:

On 01 February 2022, and in subsequent engagement with the AAIU, the Department of Transport provided the following response to this Safety Recommendation:

"On behalf of the Minister I would like to convey the following:

The recommendation is accepted.

The SAR/HEMS Decision Tree was re-issued in the 2018 Coast Guard Helicopter SOP following a review between the IRCG and the Operator. The most recent iteration of the Coast Guard Helicopter SOP was published in 2020 following review by the relevant stakeholders. The updated SAR / HEMS decision tree is published in this document for use by Coast Guard staff and is replicated in the IAA approved CHCI Operations Manuals (OMF and OMG).

To ensure that all relevant aspects of the accident have been considered in relation to the SAR/HEMS decision tree the Coast Guard will keep under review, as per the SMS processes, all aspects of aviation procedures including the SAR/HEMS decision tree. This includes all arrangements regarding the tasking of SAR helicopters to ensure that there is maximum clarity in the tasking process and that HEMS missions are not conducted under provisions which should only apply to SAR missions."

AAIU Comment:

The AAIU notes the Minister's response of 01 February 2022.

The AAIU considers the status of this Safety Recommendation to be 'Implemented, closed'.