COSPAS-SARSAT (CS) 2026-2027

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of the COSPAS-SARSAT course is to provide a thorough understanding of the COSPAS-SARSAT satellite system. It is a course for students in the fields of Search and Rescue planning and coordination. Students are provided with an in-depth exploration of how the COSPAS -SARSAT system gathers and distributes emergency alert information to be disseminated in a timely manner to the appropriate RCC. This course is primarily intended for those Officers in the Navy, Coast Guard, Police or Maritime Administration who work in the Mission Control Center or Maritime Rescue Coordination Centers.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

The primary audience is personnel designated to effectively operate the COSPAS-SARSAT segment of SAR in their country. It also includes any personnel who may be involved directly or indirectly in search and rescue activities. This includes Rescue Coordination Centre personnel, Air Traffic Control personnel, Civil Aviation personnel, Coast Guard, Navy, Emergency responders, Police, Administrators and Management.

REFERENCES

IAMSAR manual Volume I- Organization and management (2022)
IAMSAR manual Volume II- Operations (2022)
IAMSAR manual Volume III- Mobile facilities (2022)
ICAO Annex XII- Search and Rescue
The Canadian SAR system best MCC practices
Cospas Sarsat website- professional level
Cospas Sarsat RCC operations manual G.007

GENERAL LEARNING OUTCOME

The candidates will emerge with an in-depth understanding of the COSPAS-SARSAT system which includes the scope of the system, the beacons (ELT,EPIRB,PLB,ELT (DT), Ship Security), the satellites (LEO,MEO,GEO), the ground segment (LUT), data distribution, operations and performance, the Mission Control Centre, approval and commissioning, future developments including Global Aeronautical Distress Safety System (GADSS). There is a final examination.

PREREQUISITES

Fundamentals of SAR or equivalent

LANGUAGE
Understanding of the English language both written and spoken preferably with a minimum of ICAO Level 3 English proficiency.

DURATION AND LOCATION
Course duration is 5 training days and delivered onsite

CLASS SIZE
A maximum of 12 students per instructor.

INSTRUCTING PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS
All proposed instructors are Canadian SAR Mission Coordinators from a Canadian Joint Rescue Coordination Centre and/or the Canadian Mission Control Centre with a minimum of 10-year experience in SAR and JRCC, and a license as a fixed-wing/ rotary wing Pilot or Air Navigator with a minimum of 7-year experience flying in SAR operations.

SAMPLE COURSE TOPICS
The SAR system internationally
Origin of COSPAS-SARSAT
The beacons
The satellites
The ground segment
The SIT message format
IBRD
Alert Data Distribution plan
Performance and characteristics
Approval and commissioning
GADSS and next generation beacons

CERTIFICATION
Students receive a certificate of attendance for the COSPAS-SARSAT training.

COURSE FEE
All-inclusive format. Includes tailored course preparation for specific personnel, instruction delivery, handouts, graduation certificates.

AVAILABILITY AND PREPARATION TIME

Course availability is depending upon IAMSAR Solutions' ongoing commitments. A minimum of 90 days from contract signature is required prior to start of training.