



2.12 SAR PROCEDURES Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

2.12.1 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 2.12 Search and Rescue
- 2.12 GSAR Procedures
- 2.12 Annex

2.12.2 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- (1) Why are these being referred to as procedures, while during the past when they were circulated for feedback, they were called guidelines?

After discussion by the BCSARA/EMBC Management and Partnership Committees the decision was made to have them attached to the EMBC GSAR Policy as Procedures in recognition of their importance. During the previous consultation sessions there was concern voiced that calling them guidelines meant they are not considered requirements, which they are.

- (2) It seems quite a while since the draft documents were circulated for feedback, why did it take so long to get the approved versions out?

There was a lot of feedback received to the draft documents, which were reviewed and revised a number of times to make sure all feedback was considered, and frankly there was a lack of resources provincially to move these forward.

- (3) What If we don't see our feedback reflected in the documents?

All feedback received was considered. While there are differences in opinions based on experiences and level of knowledge; EMBC and BCSARA did factor such opinions in, as well as existing requirements within the SAR Safety Program, Provincial Operating Guidelines, policies, and training course materials. Another major consideration was maintaining the ability for GSAR Volunteers to respond.

- (4) If we have further feedback on the versions distributed can we send it in?

Feedback on the procedures is always welcome. Please send comments and recommended revisions to feedback@bcsara.com who ensure it is considered by EMBC and BCSARA a response is provided.



- (5) The requirement for a GSAR Group to be a legal entity in section 4 has been changed since the last draft, why?

The change was made to reflect that although currently almost all GSAR Groups have societies there is a range of roles for those societies. In some cases, the registered society involves SAR Managers and have a direct role and impact on operational roles, while in other cases they are structured separately and provide fundraising and other supports to the GSAR Groups operational members.

- (6) What is the purpose of the documents and isn't this adding to the pressure on GSAR Groups and their members?

The main purpose is to ensure everyone understands what their roles and responsibilities are; most of the requirements within the documents already exist within policies, the SAR Safety Program, Provincial Operating Guidelines, and training materials. Much like the Provincial Operating Guidelines this pulls the information into one document which is consistent for reference.

- (7) What happens if a GSAR Group currently doesn't meet the requirements for one or more of the capabilities they are recognized as having?

If a GSAR Group doesn't have the number of trained members required to respond in any advertised capability they should be advising their EMBC Regional Office and letting adjoining Groups know so they are aware of the need to provide mutual support. EMBC in conjunction with BCSARA will be following up with each Group to confirm their capabilities. Should requirements to maintain a capability not be met then a plan, to achieve the requirements will be discussed.

- (8) Is there a deadline for a GSAR Group to apply to be recognized in a new capability?

No, applying to be recognized for a new capability can be done at any time, however it is important to remember that a needs analysis, including historic call volume for that technical rescue expertise and availability of other resources and mutual support, is required.

- (9) What is new information within the documents?

There are some new designations within Appendix A '*GSAR Group Capabilities*'. For example, there are 3 levels of GSAR Groups, which changes the terminology from the previously used term of "Initial Response Team". A change within the main document is that Criminal Records Checks will be mandatory for new members and an update check will be required for all members every 5 years.