

Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C.

ORDER

DOT 1900.6B

1-29-81

SUBJECT: DISASTER ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

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1. PURPOSE. This Order establishes Department of Transportation (DOT) policy and assigns responsibility for responding to major disasters in foreign countries.
 2. CANCELLATION. DOT 1900.6A, DISASTER ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES, of 7-5-77.
 3. REFERENCE. Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (PL 87-195), as amended, and related legislation.
 4. DEFINITIONS.
 - a. Foreign disaster. An act of nature (such as a flood, drought, fire, hurricane, earthquake, volcanic eruption, or epidemic) or an act of man (such as a riot, violence, civil strike, explosion, fire) of magnitude to warrant United States' emergency relief assistance. The severity magnitude of a foreign disaster is determined by taking into account the local resources available for alleviating the hardship and suffering caused and the extent of social or economic disruption.
 - b. Emergency disaster relief. Aid which can be used to alleviate immediate suffering of disaster victims, and which does not constitute a substantial, permanent contribution to the economy of the country concerned. Normally, it includes services and commodities that are used in the course of relief; the rescue and transportation of victims; the provision of food, clothing, medicines, beds and bedding, temporary shelter and housing; and the furnishing of hospital equipment, and medical and technical personnel; and making repairs to essential services.
 - c. Emergency disaster period. The interval of time, usually not exceeding sixty to ninety days, during which the kinds of relief cited above are needed.
 5. BACKGROUND.
 - a. In 1964, following a comprehensive analysis of the problem, a revised joint Department of State/Agency for International Development (State/AID) circular was issued to clarify responsibilities. It provides among other things, that the foreign policy decision as to United States participation in emergency foreign disaster relief operations
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is the responsibility of the Department of State. Pursuant to this decision the AID will coordinate U.S. Government and private response in order to achieve optimum assistance. Any Federal agency having needed resources or a useful capability to be of assistance in the disaster may become involved at the request of AID.

b. In its coordinating role AID will:

- (1) Initiate appropriate action for emergency foreign disaster relief which would be acceptable in the country concerned.
- (2) Specify types and amounts of supplies, equipment, material and services required in a particular disaster, taking into account recommendations from participating agencies.
- (3) Determine the funds and amounts needed to reimburse other Federal agencies, including the Department of Transportation and/or its operating administrations, for disaster relief undertaken at the request of the Department of State and/or AID.
- (4) Inform the responding agency of appropriation and allotment symbols, and the amount of funds authorized to it for emergency foreign disaster relief operations.

6. POLICY.

- a. The DOT will provide disaster assistance, within the scope of its responsibilities and capabilities, to foreign countries whenever it has been determined by the proper authority to be consistent with United States foreign policy objectives.
- b. This Order applies only to the emergency disaster period as defined in paragraph 4c.
- c. Subject to overriding DOT requirements, the Department (including its operating administrations) will respond to Department of State/AID requests for assistance in foreign disaster relief operations. In order to provide assistance at minimum cost to AID, Departmental response should utilize ongoing resources including DOT personnel already assigned in the foreign area to the maximum extent possible.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES.

- a. The Research and Special Programs Administrator (through the Director of Emergency Transportation) shall maintain contact with, and receive calls for assistance from, the AID Disaster Relief Coordinator upon policy decision by the Department of State. After coordination with the Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs, the Associate Deputy Secretary and the operating administrations concerned, he shall request the latter to provide disaster assistance appropriate to the situation.
- b. The respective operating administrations shall take immediate action to respond to the disaster requirements. This will include direct communication arrangements from overseas elements to alert the heads of agencies of the possibility of a request for support. They shall maintain records of cost incurred so that expenditures might be reimbursed through AID appropriations or otherwise accounted for as may be authorized or directed in the specific instance.
- c. The operating administrations primarily involved, by current evaluation, are the United States Coast Guard, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Railroad Administration. They can assist in making an assessment of damages to transport facilities and identifying transport projects requiring substantial assistance. Their prospective areas of assistance are, respectively:
 - (1) USCG - Subject to geographical limitations and resource availability, conduct search and rescue missions by air and/or water, restore or establish aids to marine navigation, provided the ability to fulfill existing statutory responsibilities is not derogated;
 - (2) FAA - Provision of communication and air navigational equipment, mobile or fixed, to reestablish damaged or inoperable air traffic control systems, including personnel to install, operate, and maintain until the country can reassume such responsibilities;
 - (3) FHWA - Technical and engineering assistance on roads, bridges and appurtenances;
 - (4) FRA - Technical and engineering assistance on roadbed, structures, track and bridges.

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8. REIMBURSEMENT. Reimbursement by AID for materials, equipment, supplies, and services furnished for foreign disaster relief activities, will be accomplished on a mutually agreeable basis through negotiations between the DOT operating administrations providing assistance and the AID Disaster Relief Coordinator. Where feasible, the costs involved or the expenditures authorized will be established before the services are provided.

9. REPORTS.

Each operating administration involved and the Research and Special Programs Administrator shall keep the Secretary informed by timely Alert Bulletins and other reports as the situation may require. Research and Special Programs Administrator, drawing from feeder reports furnished by the operating administrations concerned, shall make appropriate periodic reports on each disaster in which the Department becomes involved to the Agency for International Development (Attention: Disaster Relief Coordinator).

FOR THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION



Robert L. Fairman
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Administration

ATTACHMENT 1 - DOT PRIMARY CONTACTS

The following DOT officials have been designated as primary contacts for their respective administrations in the implementation of disaster assistance to foreign countries.

	<u>Coordinators</u>	<u>Duty Hours</u>	<u>Telephone</u> <u>After Duty Hours</u>
DOT	Director of Emergency Transportation (DPB-30) 400-7th St., SW Wash., D.C. 20590	426-4118	426-1830 (Duty Officer)
USCG	International Affairs Staff (USCG G-CPI/21) 2100-2d St., SW Wash., D.C. 20593	426-2280	426-1830 (Duty Officer)
FAA	Chief, Technical Assistance Division (AIA-200) 800 Independence Ave., SW Wash., D.C. 20591	426-3173	426-3333 (Duty Officer)
FHWA	Chief, Defense Plans and Operations Division (HHO-40) 400-7th St., SW Wash., D.C. 20590	426-0432	426-1830 (Duty Officer)
FRA	Assoc. Administrator Office of Research and Development (RRD-1) 400-7th St., SW Wash., D.C. 20590	426-9601	554-0478

BILLING CONTACTS

DOT	Accounting Operations Division (M-45) 400-7th St., SW Wash., D.C. 20590	426-2547	None
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USCG	Chief, Accounting Division (G-FAC) Room 5204-B 2100-2nd St., S.W. Wash., D.C. 20593	426-2120	None
FAA	Chief, Accounting Operation Division (AAA-200) Rm. 533-B 800 Independence Ave., SW Wash., D.C. 20591	426-8242	None
FHWA	Chief, Finance Division (HFS-20) Room 4314 400-7th St., SW Wash., D.C. 20590	426- 0562	None
FRA	Chief, Reports & Services Division (RAD-43), Rm. 8205 400-7th St., SW Wash., D.C. 20590	426-9720	None