

70. Removal and preservation of damaged aircraft.—(1) In the case of an accident which requires to be notified under rule 68 or 69, or in any other case in which the Director-General gives notice to the owner or other person in charge of the aircraft to this effect, the aircraft shall not, except under the authority of the Director-General, be removed or otherwise interfered with :

Provided that, subject to compliance with the provisions of rule 61 of the India Aircraft Rules, 1920, in so far as they may be applicable—

(i) If the aircraft is wrecked on water, the aircraft or any parts or contents thereof may be removed to such extent as may be necessary for bringing it or them to a place of safety ;

(ii) the aircraft or any parts or contents thereof may be removed or interfered with so far as may be necessary for the purpose of extricating persons or animals dead or alive, of preventing the destruction of the aircraft and its contents by fire or other cause or of preventing any damage or obstruction to the public or to air navigation or to other transport ;

(iii) goods shall not be removed from the aircraft except under the supervision, and with the concurrence of an officer of the Civil Aviation Department ;

(iv) passengers' and crews' personal luggage may be removed from the aircraft under the supervision of an Officer of Police Department, a Magistrate or an Officer of the Civil Aviation Department ; and

(v) mails may be removed under the supervision of an Officer of the Police Department, a Magistrate, an Officer of the Civil Aviation Department or an Officer of the Posts & Telegraphs Department.

(2) The Director-General may, for the purposes of any investigation or inquiry under these rules, authorise any person to take measures for the preservation of any aircraft involved in an accident, and such person may thereupon have access to, examine or otherwise deal with the aircraft.

(3) The owner of the aircraft or his nominated representative shall have the right to be present during any examination or other action taken under sub-rules (1) and (2), provided that the Director-General shall not be bound to postpone any action which he may consider necessary under this rule by reason of the absence of the owner or his representative.

71 Inspector's investigation.—(1) The Director-General may order the investigation of any accident involving an aircraft, whether such accident is required to be notified under rule 68 or not, and may by general or special order, appoint any person (hereinafter referred to as an "Inspector of Accidents") for the purpose of carrying out such investigation.

(2) The investigation referred to in sub-rule (1) shall be held in private.