

vate persons are under duty to participate in them within their respective powers and capabilities, in accordance with the provisions of the respective regulation.

*Article 175. Expenses of rescue.* The operations of search and salvage shall always be performed under the direction and control of the Department of Aviation, and the expenses which may be incurred, when it is a case of an accident to an aircraft of public transportation, shall be charged to the airline, which must pay even when the rescue and the search have been unsuccessful.

*Article 176. First measures.* Any person having knowledge of an air accident must notify the nearest authority, which shall be obliged to communicate the facts to the Ministry of Defense by the most rapid channel.

In the absence of an aircraft pilot, or of a competent aviation official, the first authority reaching the place of the accident shall take control of the aircraft, the baggage, cargo and mail, and shall provide whatever may be necessary for the protection and aid of the passengers and crew.

*Article 177. Inspection.* The aircraft inspector, or lacking this, the nearest airport commander shall be obliged to come personally to the place where the accident has occurred, to take the proper measures and notify the Department of Aviation immediately.

*Article 178. Salvage Centers.* The Department of Aviation shall create auxiliary centers for search and salvage at the places it deems proper.

*Article 179. Notification of Accidents.* The owners or possessors of civil aircraft and their legal representatives and agents, and the pilots in command of the respective aircraft are all under duty to notify the Department of Aviation immediately concerning any accident suffered by their aircraft.

*Article 180. Reports.* As soon as they have precise information on an accident suffered by their aircraft, or when they consider one of them to be lost, airlines are under duty to issue a report to the interested persons with the information they have on the matter.

*Article 181. Loss of Aircraft.* An aircraft shall be considered to be lost in the following cases:

- 1) By declaration of the owner, possessor or operator, subject to verification by the Department of Aviation.
- 2) When three months have elapsed from the date on which the last official or private news was received about the aircraft whose whereabouts are unknown.

In either case, the Department of Aviation shall declare the loss of the aircraft and cancel its entry in the Salvador Aeronautical Register. From the moment of cancellation, the statute of limitations shall commence to run with respect to the corresponding civil actions.

*Article 182.* An aircraft shall be considered as abandoned:

- 1) When so declared by the owner, possessor, or operator to the Department of Aviation.
- 2) When it remains for a period of ninety days in an airdrome without being operated and not under the care, either direct or indirect, of its owner, possessor or operator.
- 3) When it lacks registration, and the name of the owner and the place it comes from are unknown.