

INSARAG Recognized National Accreditation Process (IRNAP)

- Summary Overview -

What is IRNAP?

The INSARAG Recognized National Accreditation Process (IRNAP) is a framework developed by the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) to support and recognize member states' efforts in developing national Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) capacity. IRNAP certifies that a member state's national USAR system is fully aligned with INSARAG Guidelines and methodology.

Key Elements of IRNAP

1. Background

- INSARAG has promoted national USAR accreditation since 2015, encouraging member states to use INSARAG Guidelines.
- IRNAP is the external verification of a national USAR system's compliance with INSARAG standards.

2. Process Structure

- National Accreditation Process (NAP): Led by national authorities, ensures standards are aligned with INSARAG but is internally verified.
- IRNAP provides external recognition by INSARAG, verifying full compliance with INSARAG methodology.

3. Expert Groups

- Technical Support Group (TSG): Advises and supports member states in developing their NAP.
- Technical Recognition Group (TRG): Reviews and verifies compliance, recommends recognition.

4. Commitment Criteria

- Voluntary participation.
- Member states must formally request support and recognition.
- Commitment to INSARAG methodology and funding of the process.

IRNAP Stages

1. Initiation: Member State submits a formal request and self-assessment to INSARAG Secretariat.
2. Support Stage (TSG)
 - Review self-assessment and documentation.
 - Develop and agree on a work plan.
 - Conduct visits and monitor progress.
 - Duration: Up to 18 months.
3. Recognition Stage (TRG)
 - Verification visit to assess compliance.
 - Review documentation, conduct interviews, observe exercises.
 - Prepare final report and recommend recognition.
 - Duration: Up to 3 months.
4. Verification Methodology
 - Uses a color-coded checklist (Green, Yellow, Orange, Red) to assess compliance.
 - All aspects must be Green or Yellow for recognition.
5. External Recognition
 - INSARAG issues a Certificate of Endorsement valid for 10 years.
 - Accredited teams may use a standardized badge.

Roles & Responsibilities

- Requesting Member State: Leads the process, provides experts, funds activities, commits to INSARAG standards.
- TSG: Advises, supports, verifies progress, submits reports
- TRG: Verifies compliance, recommends recognition, submits final report
- INSARAG Secretariat: Coordinates expert selection, oversees process, issues certificates.
- Regional Chairmanship Group: Approves expert rosters, oversees regional implementation.

Reference & Templates

- Detailed templates for requests, self-assessment, verification, and reporting are available on the INSARAG website: <https://www.insarag.org/capacity-building/national-guidelines/>