



World Bank/OECS Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project

Government of Saint Lucia

Governmental Officers Security of Travel Policy

Maximum Number of Personnel on the Same Transport

(Document of the Saint Lucia National Emergency Management Plan)

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Based on Cabinet Conclusion Cabinet Conclusion No. 1070/2001.

*Approved by
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1.- Introduction.

The present document establishes the policies for the overseas travel of governmental officers on official business on the same vehicle, boat or aircraft.

The intention of this policy is to safeguard governmental officers (and volunteers involved in assisting the government in their normal or emergency operations) from an accident that may occur with the consequent loss of life and consequences for the Government of Saint Lucia because of the loss of key personnel that could affect the normal governmental functions, particularly if they are all from the same area of government; this besides any financial implications/liability that may arise.

In this document we will focus only on the aspect of security of governmental officers regarding to the minimum number of governmental officers aboard one vehicle, boat or aircraft.

2.-Objective.

To avoid/reduce the possibility/risk of the sudden death of several governmental officers from Saint Lucia while they are travelling aboard the same vehicle, boat or aircraft, by establishing a maximum number of governmental officers on board, thus reducing the possibility of a disaster that could cause loss of lives and seriously affect governmental functions in the country.

3.- Background.

3.1.- Cabinet Conclusion No. 1070/2001.

Cabinet considered a memorandum dated October 12, 2001, submitted by the Office of the Prime Minister and agreed that any delegation comprising five [5] or more travelling on GOSL business should as far as possible avoid using the same vehicle, boat or aircraft.

3.2.- Past Events.

There is no doubt that after the September 11th, 2001 aircraft crashes into the World Trade Centre in New York due to a terrorist attack, the perception of risk has increased in the general population and the need for better preventive measures to reduce the probability of accidents in transport is a major concern in security and disaster management organisations all over the world.

Other events that are permanently on our minds are those that are still being discussed in the Media, such as the Lockerbie accident in 1988, where Pan Am flight 103 crashed and where 259 passengers and crew plus 11 Lockerbie residents died in an event caused by the explosion of a bomb on the flight and the crash of the plane on that city.

Also, we see frequently on the television aircraft crashes occurring somewhere in the world the world; but we have to remember also that serious accidents can occur to boats; one example is the accident to the roll-on/roll-off passenger and freight ferry “Herald of Free Enterprise” in

1987 where 193 people died when the vessel heeled to port, veered to starboard and rapidly capsized, being saved from rolling through 180 degrees only by the fact that her port side came on the sea bed.

No little mention is made of all the frequent accidents on the roads in which the collision of cars causes deaths and serious injuries to passengers not only in Saint Lucia and all over the world.

4.- General Overview of the Security Problem while Travelling.

Security of governmental officers during travel covers a wide spectrum of activities such as: accidents to terrestrial, maritime and aerial transportation (vehicles, boats and aircrafts), accidents while performing work activities, accidents at the hotel, assaults, loss of property, loss of information, loss of money/valuables, etc., the consequences of some of these events can be fatal and/or disastrous: death, injuries and need of hospitalisation, permanent loss of assets, interruption of work activities, etc.

In the case of accidents on transportation, they could cause that the functions performed by the governmental officers involved would be interrupted temporarily while the governmental officer recovers from whatever damage they had been gone through if not fatal.

In the worst case scenario where there are several individuals travelling (e.g. 5, 10 or more) on board a vehicle, boat or aircraft that has a serious accident, in which all the individuals involved in it are governmental officers, and that all die as a consequence of the accident itself, this would represent a disaster for the Government of Saint Lucia for many Ministries/Departments would be deprived of many of their members and their functions would be interrupted. This situation would be worse if all the deceased work for the same Ministry/Department.

The need to prevent and be prepared to these events demands effective actions from the Government of Saint Lucia and from individuals who travel, particularly from Governmental Officers in duty travel. Hence, the need of the present Policy that could be one of several policies regarding security of Governmental Officers while travelling on board of vehicles, boats and aircrafts.

5.- The Probability of Transportation Accidents.

Accidents have occurred to vehicles, boats and aircrafts; travelling always poses a risk from departure to arrival.

The probability of occurrence of one accident has to be estimated, however, and it would take long and deep research and a thorough study, or series of studies, which should consider factors such as the type of vehicle, boat or aircraft, airline, route, length of trip, history of accidents, type and cause of accidents and others to determine it (the probability) more or less accurately.

Vulnerability, on the other hand, depends on factors such as type and number of personnel, Ministry/Department/Area of work and functions between others.

If it is not on the hands of the Government of Saint Lucia to reduce the probability of the occurrence of these accidents, it is possible to reduce the vulnerability if one of these accidents occur by reducing the number of governmental officers travelling aboard the same vehicle, boat or aircraft.

6.- Determination of the Minimum Number of Governmental Officers.

It has been decided by the Government of Saint Lucia (see point 3.1.) that the maximum number of governmental officials travelling on the same vessel must be five (5) and that any delegation comprising five [5] or more travelling on official business should as far as possible avoid using the same vehicle, boat or aircraft.

This number can change depending on the results of research and studies about the probability of an accident or by the specific conditions of a specific situation.

7.- Policies.

- The Government of Saint Lucia will make every possible effort to ensure the protection of its personnel.
- The Government of Saint Lucia will make every possible effort to ensure the reduction of risks and the increase of security in their duty travels.
- The Government of Saint Lucia will make every possible effort to ensure that security measures are taken for the duty travel of governmental officers in order to reduce the probability of accidents that could cause injuries or death and a consequent disaster.
- The Government of Saint Lucia hereby establishes the maximum of four (4) governmental officers as the maximum of personnel that should take the risk of travelling at the same time on board of the same vehicle, boat, aeroplane or helicopter. Any delegation comprising five [5] or more travelling on GOSL business should as far as possible avoid using the same vehicle, boat or aircraft.
- The Government of Saint Lucia will ensure governmental officers take administrative provisions to fulfil these policies.

8.- Conclusion

There is no doubt about the need for the protection of personnel while travelling. These policies to limit the number of governmental officers travelling on the same transport are a very important step taken by the Government of Saint Lucia in the reduction of risks and the prevention of accidents and disasters.