



FEMA

Fact Sheet

International Disaster Assistance – Concept of Operations (IAS CONOPS)

The IAS CONOPS is a supporting document of the National Response Framework, detailing when and how the U.S. government accepts or requests offers of assistance from foreign countries following domestic disasters declared under the Stafford Act. The IAS is always available to support life-saving efforts of the U.S. government.

The IAS CONOPS establishes standard operating procedures for:

- Requesting assistance from foreign countries
- Reviewing foreign offers and determining whether to accept or decline these offers
- Managing the logistics of transporting, receiving, and distributing international donations

When foreign governments offer disaster assistance to the American people, a variety of departments and regulatory agencies become involved including, in part; the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Under IAS guidelines, only relevant commodities without significant regulatory agency oversight or required inspections will be permitted for import. The IAS may be used to acquire needed resources, either through direct purchase or donation, that are not available within the United States in either the time or quantity required.

Recognizing that foreign policy considerations may be an element in a domestic crisis, the IAS CONOPS addresses both the critical needs of the response operators and the foreign policy objectives of the diplomatic and national security communities. In creating a “Push” and “Pull” system, the IAS attempts to balance operational needs and diplomatic obligations.

The best way to support the people of the United States following a major disaster is to provide a cash donation to a domestic non-profit relief organization operating in the affected region, such as those of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD). <http://www.nvoad.org/>

A public version of the IAS CONOPS is available at : <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/110502>

For more information about FEMA international programs, please contact International Affairs at fema-international@fema.dhs.gov.

“FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.”

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