



EMSA Technical Study

Main safety aspects relevant for SAR operations at sea

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Brussels, 2 October 2023



Title:

“Main safety aspects relevant for search and rescue operations at sea”

Objective:

The study will provide a factual and technical overview of safety elements to be considered in the context of search and rescue operations

- 1. Executive Summary**
- 2. Background and current status**
- 3. State of play**
- 4. Main elements concerning safety aspects for ships dedicated to rescue operations**
- 5. Safe management of rescue operations**
- 6. Concluding remarks**

2. Background and current status

2.1 Legal framework

- Factual description of the relevant international conventions and codes related to Search and Rescue for all vessels.

2.2 General safety aspects of SAR operations

- General overview of the main general safety aspects concerning SAR operations e.g., excessive number of people on board, rescue elements to take the people from the sea, life-saving appliances, first-aid assistance, presence of vulnerable persons, etc.

3. State of play

3.1 Review of existing safety standards in legal instruments and recommendations

- Safety standards issued by IMO, the Industry (including Offshore) or any other relevant stakeholder.

3.2 Sample of Member States SAR Units

- Descriptive overview of the main characteristics, from a SAR perspective, of a sample of SAR Units available in EU MS.

3. State of play (cont.)

3.2 Sample of Member States SAR Units (cont.)

For each ship, the following info will be requested before 1st November:

General Arrangement

Building Technical Specification

Safety Plan

Safety Certificates (SOLAS, Class,...)

3.3 NGO ships dedicated to rescue operations in 2023

List of ships, including information on their main characteristics (e.g., IMO number, type of vessel, length, width, GT, capacity of persons on board, etc.), as provided by HOME.

4. Main elements concerning safety aspects for ships dedicated to rescue operations

A selection of the most suitable safety elements to enable a vessel to undertake safely the fundamental rescue functions, including:

4.1 Ship design and construction

4.2 Life Saving Appliances

4.3 Health and Living conditions

5. Safe management of rescue operations

- Description, from an ISM perspective, of the practices on procedures, plans and instructions for rescue operations concerning the safety of the personnel involved, the ship and the protection of the environment.
- Considerations on training and qualifications of all the personnel involved.

6. Concluding remarks



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