



Ref. T1/2.02

**PROVISION OF PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON SERIOUS AND VERY SERIOUS
CASUALTIES BY RESCUE CO-ORDINATION CENTRES**

1 For the purpose of assisting the Organization to receive information on very serious and serious casualties involving merchant ships and fishing ships, as soon as possible after their occurrence, the Maritime Safety Committee, at its sixty-eighth session (28 May to 6 June 1997), invited Member Governments to transmit to the Secretariat relevant preliminary information derived from their rescue co-ordination centres as soon as possible after they obtain such information.

2 The definitions of serious and very serious casualties are as follows:

"Very serious casualties" are casualties to ships which involve total loss of the ship, loss of life, or severe pollution.

"Serious casualties" are casualties to ships which do not qualify as "very serious casualties" and which involve a fire, explosion, collision, grounding, contact, heavy weather damage, ice damage, hull cracking, or suspected hull defect, etc., resulting in:

- structural damage rendering the ship unseaworthy such as penetration of the hull underwater, immobilization of main engines, extensive accommodation damage, etc.;
- or
- pollution (regardless of quantity); and/or
- a breakdown necessitating towage or shore assistance.

3 The information requested should be forwarded in any format available but, preferably, in the form of situation reports (SITREPs), as shown in the IMO Search and Rescue Manual, Part 2 - chapter 1, annex 2.
