

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON MARITIME
SEARCH AND RESCUE, 1979

ANNEX TO THE CONVENTION

(Text adopted by the Conference)

CHAPTER 1 — TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

1.1 “Shall” is used in the Annex to indicate a provision, the uniform application of which by all Parties is required in the interest of safety of life at sea.

1.2 “Should” is used in the Annex to indicate a provision, the uniform application of which by all Parties is recommended in the interest of safety of life at sea.

1.3 The terms listed below are used in the Annex with the following meanings:

.1 “Search and rescue region”. An area of defined dimensions within which search and rescue services are provided.

.2 “Rescue co-ordination centre”. A unit responsible for promoting efficient organization of search and rescue services and for co-ordinating the conduct of search and rescue operations within a search and rescue region.

.3 “Rescue sub-centre”. A unit subordinate to a rescue co-ordination centre established to complement the latter within a specified area within a search and rescue region.

.4 “Coast watching unit”. A land unit, stationary or mobile, designated to maintain a watch on the safety of vessels in coastal areas.

.5 “Rescue unit”. A unit composed of trained personnel and provided with equipment suitable for the expeditious conduct of search and rescue operations.

.6 “On-scene commander”. The commander of a rescue unit designated to co-ordinate search and rescue operations within a specified search area.

.7 “Co-ordinator surface search”. A vessel, other than a rescue unit, designated to co-ordinate surface search and rescue operations within a specified search area.

.8 “Emergency phase”. A generic term meaning, as the case may be, uncertainty phase, alert phase or distress phase.