

Ref. T2/5.01

SPECIAL NEEDS OF HIGH SPEED CRAFT (HSC)

SAR OPERATING PLANS

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its sixty-sixth session (28 May to 6 June 1996), noted the particular SAR considerations associated with incidents involving High Speed Craft (HSC) which do not have the same fire and stability standards as SOLAS passenger ships and cannot ensure their intrinsic safety when immobile at sea.

2 Noting that, in the event of an incident which renders an HSC immobile, an urgent response is required by SAR services to ensure the safety of passengers and crew, it is essential that Governments, in drawing up and exercising SAR operation plans, take into account the special considerations associated with HSC operating in their regions.

3 To ensure that operating plans address the SAR considerations associated with HSC, HSC operators/owners should co-operate with SAR authorities taking into account, as necessary and as decided by the regulatory authorities in co-operation with the SAR authority concerned, any special measures the HSC operator/owner will have to undertake.

4 Member Governments are invited to bring this circular to the attention of all concerned for information and action, as appropriate.
