

# Training on Search And Rescue (SAR)

## Legal background

/ SAFEMED IV Project



Project funded  
by the European Union



# UN – UNCLOS - IMO

The **United Nations (UN)** is an intergovernmental organization that aims to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, achieve international cooperation, and be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.



In 1982, UN has adopted the United Nations Convention On the Law of the Sea, known as UNCLOS

The UN System includes a multitude of specialized agencies. One of them is the International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

# UNCLOS Article 98.1

The Coastal State has the obligation to:

- To render assistance to any person found at sea in danger of being lost
- To share information about naval accidents with the competent authorities
- To set up an organization able to perform search and rescue operations within its territory



To promote the establishment, operation and maintenance of an adequate and effective search and rescue service regarding safety on and over the sea and, where circumstances so require, by way of mutual regional arrangements cooperate with neighbouring States for this purpose”.

UNCLOS also mention obligations for the ship's Master to be imposed by the States



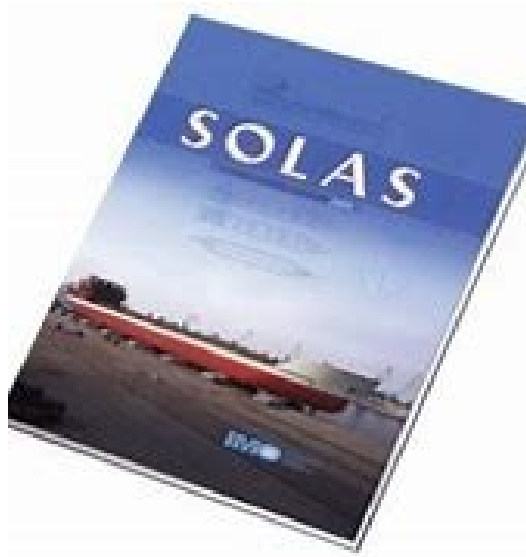
UNCLOS provisions were considered by the SOLAS Convention in its Chapter V

## Regulation 7

Obligation on Contracting Government to arrange for distress communication and co-ordination in their area of responsibility and for the rescue of persons in distress at sea around its coasts.

Arrangements shall include the establishment, operation and maintenance of such search and rescue facilities as are deemed practicable and necessary:

- density of the seagoing traffic
- navigational dangers



# SOLAS Chapter V/7



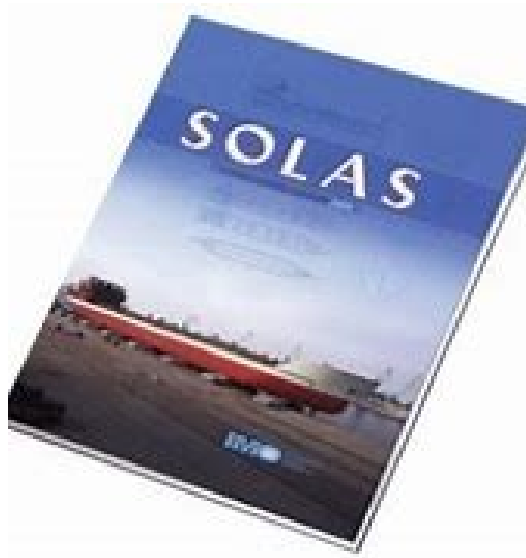
UNCLOS provisions were considered by the SOLAS Convention in its Chapter V

## Regulation 7

Passenger ships must have a prepared plan on board

Developed on the basis of the IMO guidelines (*MSC.1/Circ.1079/Rev.1 16 June 2017*) in **co-operation** between the **ship**, the **ISM Company** and the **SAR services**

Provisions for **periodic exercises** to be undertaken to test its effectiveness



UNCLOS provisions  
were considered by the  
SOLAS Convention in  
its Chapter V



## Regulation 33

The MASTER OF A SHIP at sea which is in a position to be able to provide assistance (...), is bound to proceed with all speed to their assistance, if possible, informing them or the search and rescue service that the ship is doing so.

The obligation applies regardless of the nationality or status of such persons or the circumstances in which they are found.



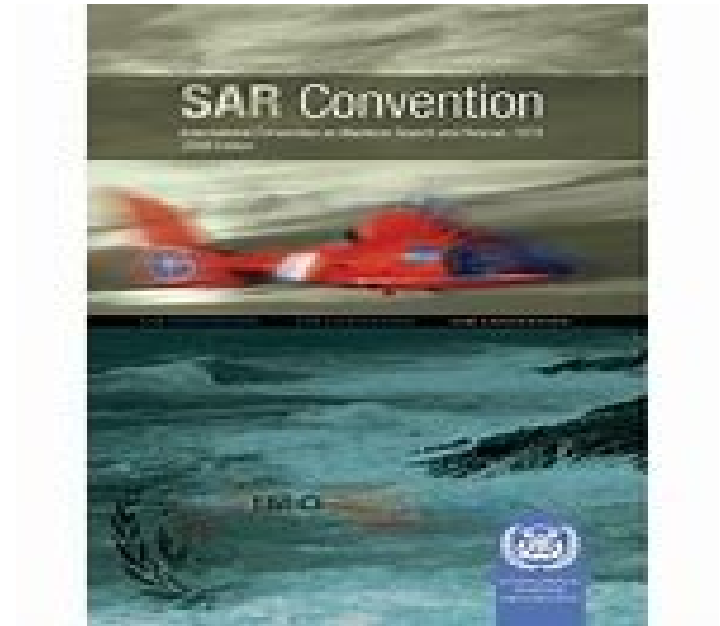
- **IS IT ENOUGH?**
- **WHAT IS MISSING IN YOUR OPINION?**





# 1979 Convention on SAR

Although the obligation of ships to go to the assistance of vessels in distress was enshrined both in tradition and in international treaties (such as the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974), until the adoption of the SAR Convention, there was no international system covering search and rescue operations.



In some areas there was a well-established organization able to provide assistance promptly and efficiently, in others there was nothing at all.



# 1979 Convention on SAR

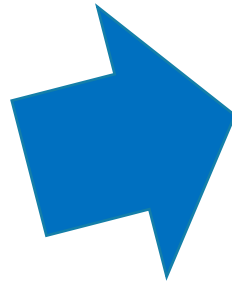


Aims at developing an international SAR plan

No matter where an accident occurs, the rescue of persons in distress at sea will be coordinated by a SAR organization and

**when necessary**

by cooperation between neighbouring SAR organizations.



Parties are encouraged to enter into SAR agreements with neighbouring States involving the establishment of SAR regions, the pooling of facilities, establishment of common procedures, training and liaison visits.

The Convention states that Parties should take measures to expedite entry into its territorial waters of rescue units from other Parties.

# 1979 Convention on SAR

The technical requirements of the SAR Convention are contained in an Annex, which was divided into five chapters.

Parties to the Convention are required to ensure that arrangements are made for the provision of adequate SAR services in their coastal waters.



The Convention then goes on to establish preparatory measures which should be taken, including the establishment of rescue coordination centres and subcentres.

It outlines operating procedures to be followed in the event of emergencies or alerts and during SAR operations. This includes the designation of an on-scene coordinator and his duties.

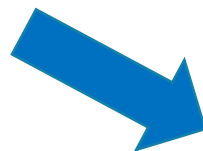


## Inform IMO Secretary-General of

1. national authority responsible for the maritime search and rescue services;
2. location of the established rescue co-ordination centres or other centres providing search and rescue co-ordination, for the search and rescue region or regions and communications therein;
3. limits of their search and rescue region or regions and the coverage provided by their shore-based distress and safety communication facilities; and
4. principal types of available search and rescue units.

## International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual

- Guideline for the organization and performance of the S.A.R. (naval and aeronautical)
- Published jointly by I.C.A.O. and I.M.O.
- The new edition is published every 3 years



## SOLAS Chapter V/21

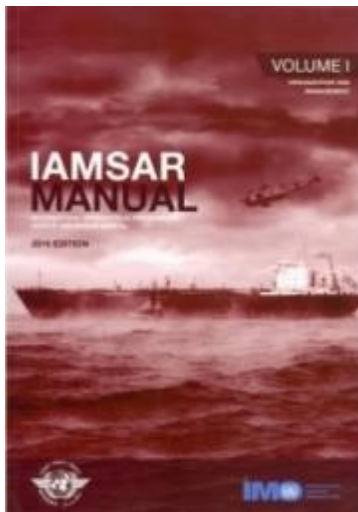
All ships shall carry an up-to-date copy of Volume III of the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual.

- Harmonization of Rescue operations and the establishing minimum requirements
- Model for search and rescue and air rescue agreement
- Define training requirements
- Divided into 3 volumes

## Volume I

## ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

Defines the SAR as a Global System, identifying a National and Regional system, within which States must work together to improve and make the SAR Service even more efficient

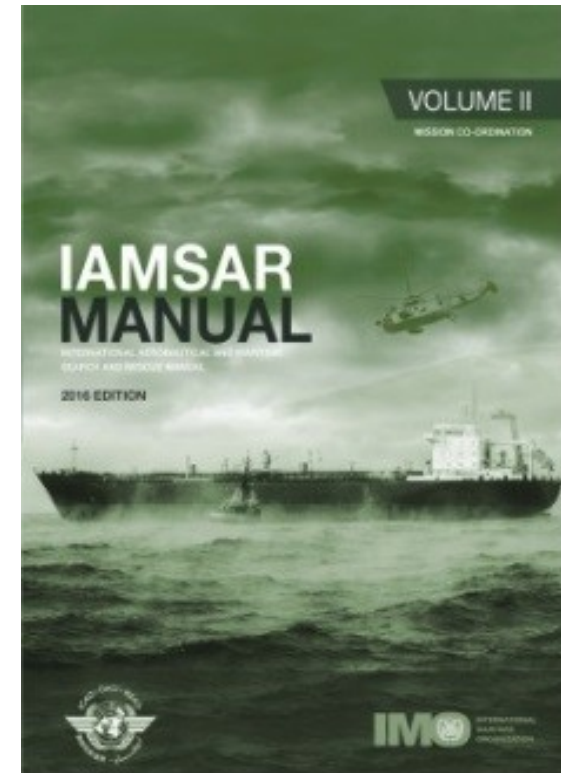


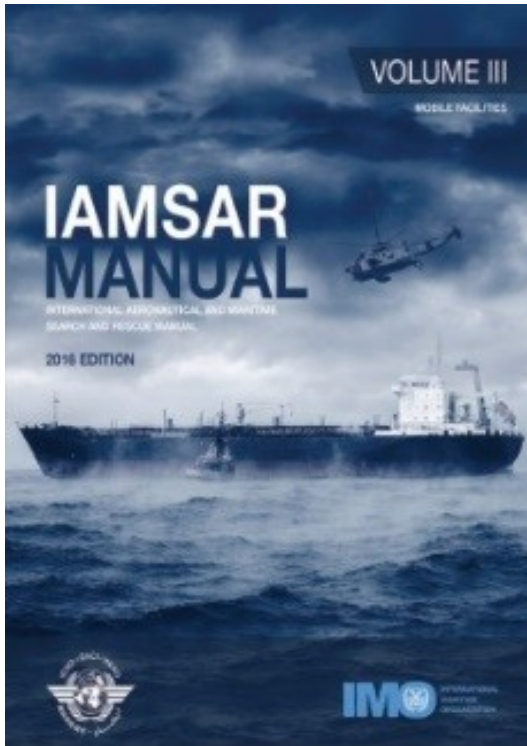


## Volume II

### MISSION CO-ORDINATION

Provides the necessary tools for planning and coordinating the operations of S.A.R.





## Volume III

## MOBILE FACILITIES

Support that must be present on board the Rescue Units, intended as support in search and rescue activities. Specifies the functions of the On Scene Coordinator.





## SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICE



The performance of distress monitoring, communication, coordination and search and rescue functions, including provision of medical advice, initial medical assistance, or medical evacuation, through the use of public and private resources, including cooperating aircraft, vessels and other craft and installations



## SEARCH

Operation, normally co-ordinated by a rescue co-ordination centre or rescue sub-centre, using available personnel and facilities to locate persons in distress

## RESCUE

Operation to retrieve persons in distress, provide for their initial medical or other needs and deliver them to a place of safety





## PLACE OF SAFETY (POS)

Location where rescue operations are considered to terminate:

- survivors' safety of life is no longer threatened and where their basic human needs (such as food, shelter and medical needs) can be met
- place from which transportation arrangements can be made for the survivors' next to final destination.

A place of safety may be on land, or it may be on board a rescue unit or other suitable vessel or facility at sea that can serve as a place of safety until the survivors are disembarked at their next destination



**Thank you for your attention**

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