



Ref. T2/2.07

## THE MARKING OF SEISMIC STREAMERS

- 1 At its sixty-seventh session (2 to 6 December 1996), the Maritime Safety Committee approved the following recommendation on the marking of arrays of seismic streamers towed by survey vessels.
- 2 Towed streamers can extend to considerable lengths (e.g. more than 8 km). Their ends can be out of sight of the towing vessel. Long unmarked streamers represent a danger to navigation to other vessels, which need to be warned that they may be running into danger.
- 3 To enhance safe navigation, seismic survey vessels should mark their towed streamers with tail buoys. Additionally, another buoy should be towed a short distance behind the towing vessel. All buoys should display by day and night an all-round high-intensity white light flashing the Morse signal "U" - "You are running into danger".
- 4 It will be clear to approaching vessels that the area of danger lies between the buoy towed close to the vessel, and the array of buoys towed on the tails of the streamers.
- 5 Attention is also drawn to the content of SN/Circ.154 on the use of radar transponders on ships for safety purposes, which may also have some relevance to this issue.
- 6 Member Governments are requested to bring the above recommendation to the attention of all seafarers and operators of seismic survey vessels for information and action, as appropriate.