



Statens haverikommission
Swedish Accident Investigation Authority

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M/S Estonia Preliminary Assessment: Governments Informed about Possible Need of Underwater Surveys Deemed Necessary by Flag State

Under the lead of the Estonian Safety Investigation Bureau (OJK), OJK and its Swedish (SHK) and Finnish (OTKES) counterparts have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that describes the work in progress concerning the preliminary assessment concerning M/S Estonia and the need for further measures.

In February 1995, the governments of Estonia, Sweden and Finland agreed to protect M/S Estonia as a final place of rest for victims of the disaster from any disturbing activities.

The international agreement has been implemented in national legislations in various ways. Additional States have ratified the international agreement as well.

Should underwater surveys be necessary in order to complete the preliminary assessment, the request to conduct them will come from the flag State. Such a request has been made.

The Authorities acknowledge that the legal situation currently prevents underwater operations in the vicinity of the vessel and have upon flag State Estonia's decision informed their respective governments about the current situation. Any change of legislation or interpretation thereof would have to be done according to international rules and regulations.

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