

Statement of Principles

concerning

CAISSON DISEASE

ICD CODE: 993.3

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **caisson disease** and **death from caisson disease** can be related to operational service rendered by veterans, peacekeeping service rendered by members of Peacekeeping forces and hazardous service rendered by members of the Forces, the Repatriation Medical Authority determines, under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act), that the factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **caisson disease** or **death from caisson disease** with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) being exposed to an abrupt reduction in the pressure of the air surrounding the person, immediately before the clinical onset of caisson disease; or
 - (b) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for the caisson disease.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(b)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factor set out in paragraph **1(b)** applies only where:

- (a) the person's **caisson disease** was contracted before a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
- (b) the relationship suggested between the **caisson disease** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), 70(5)(d), or 70(5A)(d) of the Act.

4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“caisson disease” means a condition caused by the formation of nitrogen bubbles in the blood or body tissue due to an abrupt reduction in the pressure of the air surrounding the person, attracting ICD code 993.3;

“ICD code” means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the tenth edition of the *International Classification of Diseases* 9th Revision, effective date of 1 October 1993, copyrighted by the US Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities, and having the Library of Congress number 77-94472.

Dated this *Thirteenth* day of *April* 1995

The Common Seal of the)
 Repatriation Medical Authority)
 was affixed to this instrument)
 in the presence of:)

KEN DONALD
 CHAIRMAN