

Clarification of the Use of Light Emitting Diode (LED) Torches

Amended Guidance

Guidance for Safety Equipment

Reason for Amendment

The International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code requires that one waterproof electric torch suitable for Morse signalling be provided together with one spare set of batteries and one spare bulb in a waterproof container.

Although technological progress has led to the development of LED watertight torches in recent years, their usage under the LSA Code is unclear. A draft unified interpretation (UI) clarifying that the use of LED watertight torches is permitted was, therefore, developed and this draft UI was approved at the 107th Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 107) held in May 2023.

Accordingly, relevant requirements are amended based on the aforementioned draft unified interpretation.

Outline of Amendment

- (1) Specifies requirements clarifying that the use of LED watertight torches is permitted.
- (2) Specifies requirements for the use of watertight torches that have more than one LED as a light source.
- (3) Specifies that a second watertight torch can be accepted as an alternative to providing one spare set of batteries and one spare bulb in a waterproof container.

“Guidance for safety equipment” has been partly amended as follows:

Chapter 3 ARRANGEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

3.1 General

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Sub-paragraph -25 has been added as follows.

25 With respect to the “one waterproof electric torch suitable for Morse signalling, together with one spare set of batteries and one spare bulb in a waterproof container” required by the LSA Code 4.1.5.1.13, 4.4.8.16, and 5.1.2.2.7, the following (1) or (2) are also deemed acceptable.

- (1) A single spare bulb shall be provided for torches utilising either a filament bulb or single LED bulb to provide the light source. However, a spare LED bulb is not required in cases where the light source consists of more than one LED bulb on the condition that the failure of a single bulb does not prevent the other bulbs from fully functioning.
- (2) Provision of a second ready-for-use waterproof electric torch suitable for Morse signalling, may be accepted as an alternative to providing one spare set of batteries and one spare bulb in a waterproof container.