

# **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 107<sup>th</sup> 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.