

**LEAFLET 59****WATER SAFETY****CONTENTS**

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- A Navy, Army and RAF Regulations

**LEAFLET FOR LINE MANAGERS****AIM**

1 This leaflet is intended as a guide to line managers, which will enable them to comply with in force Service and statutory regulation pertinent to their waterborne activity.

**STATUTORY REQUIREMENT**

2 Statutory regulation requires set standards across the gamut of water safety – from equipment, ranging between lifejackets and the design of ships rescue boats, to establishing safe operating procedures for activities as diverse as operational crossing of rivers to ensuring the safety of service personnel conducting waterborne adventurous training. Where MOD has been granted exemptions from specific civil regulations, it is policy that health and safety standards and arrangements will be, so far as reasonably practicable, at least as good as those required by statute.

**MOD POLICY**

3 There is no single Functional Safety Board (FSB) that has the lead for the entire 'Water' Safety Environment. This is principally due to the fact that FSBs are divided by equipment areas - Ships, Aviation and Land rather than by environment areas such as Water, Air and Land. At the Operational level, each Service deals with safety issues in a predominantly single service manner with overlap in some areas. Each Single Service specific requirements are indicated in Annex A to this leaflet

**DIVING**

- 4 See JSP 375 Volume 2 Leaflet 29 for the MOD Policy on diving

## ADVENTUROUS TRAINING, SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

5 Physical Development tri-Service committees, who exist to co-ordinate policy, cover each of the above 3 areas. Each Service produces its own single Service policy documentation that follows National Governing Body (NGB) guidance and policy set by the relevant Joint committees. Close links are maintained with NGBs through the various committees and national water safety guidelines are applied by the Services as applicable to their specific circumstances.

6 Military personnel are categorised as either swimmers or non-swimmers with the military requirement for personnel to be able to swim mandated in single Service publications (RN: BR 8748, Army: QR 5.187, ITD (A)2. RAF: QR 433, Para 3, AP 3342).

7 Safety in swimming pools is a tri-Service issue conducted within national policy, which is directed through the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS). Recreational swimming policy is currently mandated through an annual JS Defence Council Instruction (JS 116/2002). BR 4024 and BR 4006 are the principal RN publications relating to AT and Sport.

## LIFEJACKET AND BUOYANCY AIDS

8 DCI GEN on- Water Safety / Matrix for selection of Lifejacket and Buoyancy Aids is issued annually

## DUTIES

### Employer

9 Legislation requires the MOD to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to the health and safety of his employees to which they are exposed whilst they are at work. (Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999).

10 MOD is also required, as far as is reasonably practicable, to take suitable and effective measures to prevent any person from drowning. (Workplace (Health Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992).

### Line Manager

11 The line manager is to ensure:

11.1 That all work activities that involve water activity have been covered by a risk assessment that identifies hazards and risks.

11.2 That all significant risks are recorded and relevant control measures necessary to ensure the safety of those undertaking the work and those who could be affected by the activity are in place.

11.3 That those persons delegated to work in an area of risk are provided with suitable and sufficient information, instruction, training and supervision.

11.4 That all equipment provided to reduce risk is subject to an inspection regime and if necessary regular examination.

### Employee

12 Employees have a duty to:

12.1 Carry out tasks in such a manner that their activities do not endanger themselves or others, they are to carry out tasks in accordance with training and instructions they have received.

12.2 Be aware of risk assessments that have been carried out and comply with safe systems of work.

12.3 Report defects or failures in equipment or if they are in any doubt as to the task(s) that they are required to undertake, they are to cease their activity and inform their line manager without delay.

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## RELATED PUBLICATIONS

13 The following publications are related to this guidance

- SOLAS International Regulations
- MCA National Regulations and Safety Codes
- JSP 375 Volume 2 Leaflet 29. Diving
- JSP 375 Volume 2 Leaflet 34 Risk Assessment

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**LEAFLET 59 ANNEX A****WATER SAFETY****CONTENTS**

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**NAVY, ARMY AND RAF REGULATIONS**

- 1 Standards For Use In The Royal Navy
- 8 Standards For Use In The Army
- 12 Standards For Use In The Royal Air Force

**NAVY, ARMY AND RAF REGULATIONS****STANDARDS FOR USE IN THE ROYAL NAVY**

- 1 BR 9147 Naval Sector Safety and Environmental Management (NS SEMS) is the top-level document, which provides the strategy and framework for achieving an effective and integrated management approach to achieving safe, but no less exacting, operational effectiveness.
- 2 DefStan 02 – 148 defines RN requirements for Water Survival equipment.
- 3 RN Water Survival Equipment Policy paper, mandates policy for RN ship fit of water survival equipment.
- 4 BR 67 The Seamanship Manual covers all aspects of personnel water safety; required boat driving qualifications, lifejacket matrix etc.
- 5 Local operational area water safety regulations, See FLOOS, FLAGOS, Local Establishment orders.
- 6 RM Standing Instructions for Water Obstacle Crossing (SIWOC), mandates safety policy in this operations area.
- 7 BR 6600, RM boat operating policy; includes the water safety policy for operating small RM craft in the littoral regions, and riverine operations

**STANDARDS FOR USE IN THE ARMY**

- 8 AGAI 18, Key water safety publication within the Army. It mandates Army rules and instructions for operational activity involving water hazards. It is applied across military training and includes water safety requirements for AT, sport and leisure pursuits.
- 9 Army Department Maritime Instructions (ADMI's), Lays down the general policy for the control standards, procedures, inspections and use at sea of all Army Department (AD) vessels operated both in the UK and overseas. In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA) and the principles of the Ship Safety Management System - JSP 430. Sponsored by DGES (Land) it gives full details of formal delegation of authority for the safety management of AD vessels and boats.
- 10 The training of seamanship complies with the standards laid down in BR 67.
- 11 Movement of Army personnel in:
  - 11.1 RN, RFA and chartered ships – See Royal Navy standards.
  - 11.2 Aircraft, military parachuting – See RAF standards

## 11.3 RLC Maritime operations – AMDIs

**STANDARDS FOR USE IN THE ROYAL AIR FORCE**

12 AP 3342, sets out the regulations for military training involving water-based activities (other than that associated with aviation). This AP includes specific guidance on activities such as canoeing; sub aqua, offshore sailing, and swimming pool safety. It amplifies the contents of QR 433 listing those Branches and Trades, that must have swimming competency, the standard to be tested (the RAF Swimming Proficiency Standard), and the frequency of testing. It covers aspects of survival & rescue training, and refers to JSP318, the Manual of Military Flying Regulations, for the frequency of emergency drills, including wet drills, that must be undertaken by aircrew.

13 Riverine operations conducted by the RAF Regiment follow the guidance in AGAI 18 but the RAF mandates the underlying swimming competency level.

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