



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

**Reserve Forces and Cadets Division**  
**Ministry of Defence**  
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D/DRFC/4/2/01

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## **BUOYANCY AIDS FOR USE IN CADET FORCE TRAINING – INTERIM POLICY GUIDANCE**

References:

A. JSP 535

### Background

1. The in-service 50/80N Buoyancy Aid (BA) is currently labelled “not for use by non-swimmers”. Ref A states that the 150 N Automatic Life Jacket should be used when “non-swimmers” conduct training on water.

### Aim

2. This document sets out the interim guidance to be followed for all training where the use of BAs is mandated.

### RF&C Direction

5. Reference A currently gives guidance for the use of BAs. From the receipt of this guidance all cadets who are “non-swimmers” are not to conduct activities on water. MOD will not indemnify “non-swimmers” taking part in these activities.

6. A “non-swimmer” for the purposes of this guidance is any cadet who **whilst wearing a 50/80N BA** cannot, as a minimum:

- a. Swim over a distance of at least 25m,
- and b. Tread water / float for 1 minute,
- and c. Exit water (where an individual is unable to use their feet to touch the bottom), with assistance if required.

7. Swimming is an important life-skill and thought should be given to providing swimming lessons to “non-swimmers” whenever on water activities are being arranged for members of the Cadet Forces.

### Future Intentions

8. Training on water is an important element of Cadet Experience, not only to members of the SCC and CCF (RN). MOD will endeavour to source a suitable BA to enable “non-swimmers” to take part in these activities. This issue will be examined more fully in February 2010 in order to have a minimum impact on training for Spring 2010.

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