

# The Marine Society & Sea Cadets

## INTERIM POLICY ON WATER SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND SWIMMING TESTS

The attached letter has been issued by the Reserve Forces and Cadets Division of MOD, and is in force now.

Those who have neither passed the new test wearing buoyancy aids, nor the former Sea Cadets Swimming Test are now classed as “non swimmers” and are no longer allowed to undergo Sea Cadets Training afloat, at all. Anyone who has passed either the old or new swimming tests is classed as a “swimmer”, and may use a buoyancy aid, even if they would have had to use a lifejacket under the previous regulations.

A new swimming qualification has been created in Westminster to differentiate between the new test and the traditional one. The new test is called the “Interim Swimming Test”. Cadets who pass the new test are to be recorded as passing the Interim Swimming Test, not the Swimming Test. The criteria for passing the Interim Swimming Test are in paragraph 6 of the attached letter. The Interim Swimming Test may be administered by any adult staff who could administer the Swimming Test.

TI, TARS, and JSP 535 will be amended in due course.

It is important that any cadet being booked on afloat training at a Training Centre or Boat Station has passed either the Swimming Test or the Interim Swimming Test; those who have passed neither will not be allowed to go afloat.

Passing either test is to be recorded in Westminster.

The reasoning behind this new policy is that being trapped under a capsized boat is a much greater hazard, and a more common cause of death afloat than sinking and drowning because of insufficient buoyancy. Use of a lifejacket increases the risk of entrapment compared to use of a BA. The new policy is closer to that of the RYA than was the old one.

Note that the attached letter indicates that further refinement of the policy was to be issued in February. Any refinement received will be promulgated as soon as possible on this website and via Areas.

