

SAFETY BULLETIN No.3 of 2017

LIFEJACKET CROTCH STRAPS

The PLA's ongoing review of lifejacket safety has brought about a change in policy regarding the use of crotch straps for PLA employees.

The PLA is making the use of crotch straps mandatory on all inflating lifejackets worn by PLA employees, visitors/contractors using PLA-issued lifejackets or boarding PLA vessels.

The use of a crotch strap improves lifejacket performance by preventing the lifejacket rising up the body when inflated. This assists in keeping a person's airway clear of the water and waves, particularly after cold water shock and during prolonged exposure.



We recommend all river users wearing inflating lifejackets to use a crotch strap

Always ensure that a lifejacket and crotch strap is correctly fitted and serviced as per the manufacturer's recommendations.



- Ensure you have the equipment, time and training to perform a task properly
- Don't confuse efficiency with dangerous short cuts or 'local' practices
- Be alert to what could go wrong and recognise when a situation changes

PLA Find out more at www.pla.co.uk/humanfactors/

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Port of London Authority
London River House, Royal Pier Road,
Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BG

BOB BAKER
CHIEF HARBOUR MASTER



Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar traffic images may be recorded in the VTS Centres at Gravesend and Woolwich

