

Input paper for the following Committee(s): check as appropriate

☒ ARM ☐ ENG ☐ PAP
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Purpose of paper:

☒ Input
☐ Information

Agenda item ² (from agenda)**3.1**Workplan Task Number²

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Working Group

WG 1

Author(s) / Submitter(s)

NASSIF Gaëlle

Marking of mooring buoys

1 SUMMARY

Since 1979 French Authority has decided to mark mooring buoys with white colour.

Some sea users complain that white colour isn't well identified in bad weather conditions.

French Authority considers this problem and wants to submit it to the ARM committee.

1.1 Related documents

Maritime Buoyage System and other Aids to Navigation

G1134 – Surface colours used as visual signals on AtoN

2 BACKGROUND

In 1979, to be in accordance with MBS, French Authority has decided to recommend white colour for mooring buoys, which were considered as *Auxiliary marks*.

MBS – Auxiliary marks: *"These marks shall not conflict with other navigational marks"*

Since a few years, the Navy uses red colour on mooring buoys, which is not in accordance with IALA recommendations. The reason is : white colour is difficult to detect in bad weather conditions.

1

Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary

2

Input papers should be assigned to a work task as listed in the Committee work plan which is available in input papers. Leave open if uncertain but consider how the paper is to be processed if not relevant to a work task



Figure 2 Mooring buoy used by the Navy



Figure 1: Mooring buoy responding to French practice

Taking into account this observation, French Authority has considered to mark mooring buoys with orange colour (RAL 2008). But, regarding the guideline 1134 on Surface colours used as visual signals on AtoN, it seems to be not recommended.

*“Nevertheless, orange is probably the best ordinary colour for conspicuity against the sea, and it should preferably be **reserved for those objects for which detection in the water is more important than recognition of their colours.** The objects that require this consideration are items of emergency equipment, such as life-jackets and life rafts.”*

3 ACTION REQUESTED OF THE COMMITTEE

ARM committee is requested to confirm the possibility or not to use orange colour for mooring buoys.

If not, the committee is invited to ask other countries to share their practices on this topic and define the best colour to use for mooring buoys