

TITLE: ZERO TOLERANCE ON ALCOHOL AND DRUGS	
Guideline Number: LS1462	Issue Date: 3 /October / 2007
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PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines to ensure the:

- a. provision of a healthy and safe environment free from the effects of alcohol and drugs; and
- b. use of drugs or alcohol does not compromise the safety or health of lifesaving personnel or those they're protecting and serving.

SCOPE:

This Guideline applies to the following:

- All government authorities and agencies and those organisations responsible for the management and operation of coastal environments; and
- Those organisations experienced in public safety and responsible for the provision of public safety services.

For example:

- Coastal/marine park authorities and managers
- Lifesaving service providers
- Lifeguards and lifeguard supervisors

This Guideline applies to coastal environments, including ocean coastline and saltwater waterways that open to the oceans surrounding Australia.

GUIDELINE DESCRIPTION:

1.0 Alcohol

1.1 Lifeguards should have a 0% blood alcohol level at the commencement of their duty.

1.2 Alcohol should not be consumed by lifeguards whilst on duty.

1.3 Alcohol should not be consumed while wearing any formal lifeguard uniform.

2.0 Drugs

2.1 Non-prescribed drugs should not be used by lifeguards.

2.2 Personnel should not present themselves for duty whilst under the influence of any illegal drug.

2.3 Lifeguards should seek advice from their medical practitioner as to whether or not prescribed medicines may impact on their ability to supervise a water-based environment.

2.4 Lifeguards who are on medication properly prescribed by a doctor for medicinal or recuperative purposes should advise their supervisor as to the type of medication and all possible side effects.

2.5 Lifeguards should advise their supervisor immediately if they become aware of the prescribed drugs (e.g. antihistamine) impairing or disrupting any senses, or mental or physical abilities, and stand down from their duties until the cessation of the prescription.

3.0 Operating plants and equipment

3.1 Operators need to be aware that operating plants and equipment, including vehicles and powercraft, under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol can be dangerous.

3.2 Operators should also be aware of the legal requirements covering the operation of different classes of vehicles and powercraft, which may include zero tolerance for operating under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

4.0 Education and awareness

4.1 Where it is considered appropriate, information explaining the dangers of drugs and alcohol abuse, particularly as it relates to health and safety, should be provided.

4.2 Where it is considered appropriate, advice on counselling and appropriate treatment should be made available.

5.0 Penalties for breaches

5.1 Personnel presenting themselves for duty whilst under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs should be immediately suspended from duties.

5.2 Supervisors (i.e. lifeguard supervisors, etc) should not knowingly allow personnel to carry out duties whilst under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

5.3 Cases that indicate evidence of illegal drugs should be referred to the appropriate authorities for investigation.

DEFINITIONS:

Alcohol means 'a liquor or brew containing alcohol as the active agent'.

Doctor means 'a duly qualified and registered doctor of medicine; a licensed medical practitioner'.

Drug means 'a substance that is used as a medicine or narcotic or recreational drug that is habit forming'.

Lifeguard means 'an appropriately trained and qualified individual who volunteers or is employed at bathing beaches, pools, etc. to prevent drowning, provide injury prevention and response services, and to save people from drowning'.

Lifesaving service means 'an organised and structured service comprised of lifeguards and appropriate rescue and first aid equipment supported by a coordinated backup team'.

Occupational health and safety (OHS) means 'the health and safety considerations of or relating to the activity or business for which one is trained'.

Prescribed means 'to order or advise as a medicine or treatment; a doctor's written direction for the preparation and use of a medicine'.

REFERENCES:

Australian Coastal Public Safety Guidelines

- LS1460: Occupational health and safety policy
- LS1461: Lifeguard occupational health and safety
- LS1463: Sun safe practices
- LS1464: Selection and use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- LS1465: Hazards and banning of smoking
- LS1466: Manual handling safety
- LS1467: Managing workplace stress
- LS1468: Rehabilitation from illness or injury

Lifeguard Services, Surf Life Saving Queensland, 2004. Administrative Procedures, LGS1104, Alcohol and Drugs.

Surf Life Saving Australia, 2003. Surf lifesaving training manual, 32nd edition. Elsevier Australia Pty Ltd.

APPENDICES:

Nil