



LIFEBOAT

Glasgow Humane Society
CHARITY No: SC001178



**Proposal for the Management,
classification and administration of “One
Scotland” Water safety features**

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The effectiveness and ongoing relevance of this document will be subject to review by the Glasgow Humane Society.

The next review of this document is due by [insert date]; however, it will be updated according to significant legislative and policy changes and re-released earlier, if required.

Version Control

Version	Date	Authorisation	Information
0.1	27/01/2012	Tony Coia	Initial Draft for consultation with partner organisations
0.2	29/1/12	George Parsonage	2 nd draft
0.3	16/02/2012	Paul Fairhall	3 rd draft

Version Distribution

Version	Date	Distribution	Review	Approval	Information
0.1	27/01/2012	Glasgow Humane society			
		32 Council authorities			
		Loch Awe Loch Watch			
		Safe Tay			
		Scottish Water			
		Sustrans			
		Fire and rescue services			
		Scottish Ambulance Service			

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This proposed policy is designed to assist in improving the management, administration and standardisation of categorisation of non-addressable water safety features.
- 1.2 In view of the move to a “One Scotland” future for Police and Fire services and the existing Scottish Ambulance service, Glasgow Humane Society identified an opportunity to review water safety features throughout Scotland.
- 1.3 This policy is to be submitted for review and approval to water safety groups, local authorities, Scottish Water, and the Ambulance, Fire and Police authorities for Scotland and any other organisations deemed to be necessary, to encompass the management of non addressable Water Safety features for Scotland.
- 1.4 Non-addressable Water safety features (marker posts, lifebelt positions, slipways, etc.) provide a means of identifying a feature in a typically featureless landscape in areas surrounding or in water features.

2. Aims of the Policy

- 2.1 The aims of this policy are:
 - 2.1.1 To standardise the format and wording on signage used for water related non-addressable features.
 - 2.1.2 To create a classification of water related non-addressable features to add to gazetteers for emergency services and local authorities.
 - 2.1.3 To put in place a simple standard for signage on non addressable water features which can be used to identify the features on Emergency services command and control systems thereby allowing a quicker response to the exact location of an emergency incident.
 - 2.1.4 To utilise the identified non-addressable locations to attach additional safety information which can be linked to gazetteers for use by emergency organisations.
 - 2.1.5 To provide information that can be incorporated into a Scotland wide Data set that is made available to any relevant organisations

3 Non Addressable Water Feature signs

- 3.1 Sign Specifications
 - 3.1.1 Sign should be of a durable construction of size xxx millimetres (xxx cm) tall by xxx millimetres (xxx cm) wide.
 - 3.1.2 Lettering should be Transport Alphabet size xx in black. Sign should be high visibility yellow background with high visibility, light reflective, red

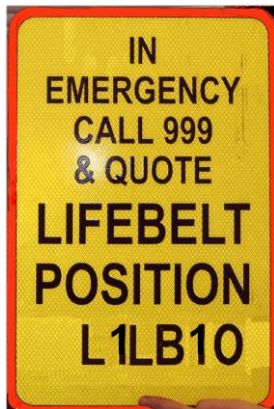
25 millimetre (2.5 cm) surrounding border. Signs should be coated in a suitable anti vandal lacquer or film.

3.1.3 Text used on sign should be standard wording :

IN EMERGENCY
CALL 999
& QUOTE
xxxxxxx

Where xxxxxx represents the new classification code.

- 3.1.4 Any mounting poles used for a sign should be of a length to allow the sign to be clearly viewed without obstruction. These poles should be galvanised and 'T' washed followed by paint system (epoxy, moisture cured urethane or polysiloxane) or powder coating to high visibility yellow (RAL 2018). Specification will be to give at least a 15-year lifespan before any major work is needed.
- 3.1.5 Where signs are attached to a fence then the fence should be painted or powder coated in high visibility yellow (RAL 2018). Any hard surface area adjacent to the sign where there is a potential that vehicles could park in front and block view of the sign, should have a box painted with diagonal lines to this area.
- 3.1.6 If additional signage is required e.g. showing diagram of a rescue ladder, this should be placed above the emergency sign on the same pole.
- 3.1.7 All signs must be GPS positioned giving 6 figure eastings and northings (x,y co-ordinates) e.g. 259605 664365 which marks a lifebelt position in Glasgow Green.



change above graphic

4. Classification of non addressables

- 4.1 GHS has been using the concept of SOS boxes on motorways used to identify locations for a number of years by transferring this idea to lifebelt positions and signposts with a unique numbering system. This system has worked well and was adopted by Strathclyde Police where the grid reference of each position was added to the Strathclyde Police gazetteer on their command and

control system to pinpoint the position of anyone quoting these lifebelt positions. Extending this road methodology to our waterways is an intuitive step and provides a familiar mechanism for pinpointing locations in an otherwise potentially featureless landscape. Using a numbering convention also prevents any issues with anyone not familiar with the local pronunciation of the more complicated loch names e.g. Loch a’ Bhadaidh Daraich. This becomes especially important as there is potential that under a national Fire and Police service, that calls may be taken anywhere in Scotland, not necessarily local to the incident. The new terminology could simplify positioning to caller and call taker. GHS proposal is to create a simple, new naming convention using 2 levels of classifications.

4.1.1 Level 1 Classification.

Used to denote the type of water feature:

C = Canals
D = Docks
F = Seafront
H = Harbours and marinas
L = Lochs or lakes
P = Ponds
Q = quarries
R= Rivers or water
S = Suds ponds
U = Burns
V = reservoirs

Letter is followed by a number to denote the specific water feature e.g. “L1” = Loch Awe, “R1” = River Clyde etc.

4.1.2 Level 2 Classification.

Used in conjunction with the water feature to denote the type of non-addressable at that location:

LA = Rescue ladder position
LB = Lifebelt position
MP = Marker post
PT= Pontoon
SL = Slipway

Again the letter is followed by a number, which will be sequential around the water feature. It is suggested that numbers increase in 10’s to allow for additional positions to be added between signs without having to re-sequence. It is also suggested that for rivers the numbers should be odd (i.e. start at 5 going up in 10’s to 15, 25, 35, etc) which would differentiate the two sides of the river.

Together the two levels of classification identify the feature and the non addressable e.g.

R1 LBS20 = River Clyde lifebelt position 20 south bank.
R1 LAN25 = River Clyde rescue ladder position 25 north bank.
L1 MP10 = Loch Awe, Marker Post position 10.

This combined classification provides a way of uniquely identifying the non-addressable water features nationally and with GPS positioning, pinpointing locations in the same way that SOS boxes identify locations on motorways.

5. Safety Information.

5.2 One of the benefits to standardising the classifications and adding these to a gazetteer is that safety information can also be provided to attach to the gazetteer entry. This process has already proved valuable in initial life belt positions set up by GHS with Strathclyde police where additional officer safety information was “popped” on the command and control screen. GHS suggest that this initial information is expanded to include more information that could improve the response time and safety of any response to an incident in or around the water e.g.

- State of bank adjacent to sign e.g. slippery, overgrown.
- Details of any obstacles to waterside e.g. fence, gate, barbed wire.
- Details of any hazards in the water – sharp currents, underwater obstacles, proximity to weirs or waterfalls.
- Advice on best approach for any incidents in the water at this location – e.g. could be better accessed from opposite bank.
- Details of any local groups or organisations that could possibly assist e.g. Loch Watch, Glasgow Humane Society etc.
- Details of gates, padlock codes, hidden access points.
- Availability of any locally held rescue equipment.
- Local names and alias
- Cross-divisional co-operation

This sort of information has to involve local water users in partnership with emergency services to provide succinct, relevant and appropriate information. Similarly there will be an expectation that such a partnership maintain this information for accuracy and it is reviewed periodically to ensure it is still valid and relevant.

6. Data Administration.

6.1 GHS proposes that a central database be held containing the new classification index, GPS position and safety information that could be provided to and maintained by GHS of water feature non-addressables. Such information could then be made available as a Scotland wide data set and provided to relevant parties for inclusion in GIS and gazetteer systems. However any agreement on the classifications and changes should be agreed through a National group comprising water safety representatives, water feature users, Scottish Water, Local authorities and emergency services. GHS suggest that such a group

could also share good practice and drive improvement to water safety standards for Scotland.