

(OMI)
CG-MIN-C-201

25 May, 1943

To: Acting Chief, Merchant Marine Inspection Division

Subj: Life Preserver Lights, change of color

1. Paragraph one of reference (a), proposed letter to National Bureau of Standards, states that "Periodical reports of survivors *** indicates that it would be extremely desirable that visibility of life preserver lights, now fitted with red plastic lenses, be increased as far as possible". This statement is not sustained by the records of marine casualties due to war action received in this section. As far as these records are concerned all of the survivors have been uniform in their praising of the existing red life preserver lights as an efficient means of recovering survivors from the water during the nighttime.

2. The only exception to the foregoing was a statement submitted by the Commander of the Coast Guard vessel engaged in the rescue of the survivors of the DORCHESTER, who stated as follows:

"All survivors were equipped with red life preserver lights which were extremely hard to see until they came close to the ship. A few had white lights which could be seen at a much greater distance and it is therefore recommended that these life preserver lights be changed to white instead of red and that the plastic globe be so constructed as to show equal light in all directions of the semi-sphere. The light as now constructed has a lens in the center of the globe which is of little assistance since it directs the light vertically."

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