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| From: ENG15 (Simon Millyard) | PAP46-8.1 |
| To: PAP46 & LAP | 17 March 2022 |

LIAISON NOTE

Liability of IALA software and calculator programmes

# INTRODUCTION

At ENG15, whilst developing a guideline on leading lights, it was agreed to include an excel based calculator to support the design on this topic. Other software calculators exist on the IALA website such as one for power assessment for solar arrays and for mooring chain design, IALA also offers Excel sheets for Risk Assessments on IWRAP and SIRA . Some of these have been in existence many years.

# Potential liability for the software

A question was raised by committee members of the potential liability of IALA for the use, accuracy and possible inaccuracy of these software calculators. All calculators are designed and tested with the best of intent by IALA committee members (or in the case of the mooring chain calculator by Calmar). Whilst there has been no recalled experience of discontent or inaccuracy of such calculators, ENG felt that this should be considered by the LAP and PAP.

Discussions at ENG on whether advice from a software calculator had greater emphasis than advice in say a guideline were inconclusive. There is clearly more scope for an error on a software programme with hidden formulas rather than in hard set text in a guidance document. From time to time we do find errors in guidelines on definitions, formulas etc. and correct them as soon as these are identified and re considered so the capacity for error does exist.

# ACTION REQUESTED

The PAP and LAP is requested to:

1. Consider if there is a liability on IALA by publishing software calculators.
2. Advise the committees of any outcome or disclaimer that may be appropriate.