



# UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

## **MARINE SAFETY ALERT**

### **Inspections and Compliance Directorate**

September 25, 2017  
Washington, DC

Safety Alert 09-17

### **Leaky Lifejacket Lights**

***It's only right to expect the light to improve your plight on a dark night.***

The Coast Guard has recently received a safety bulletin from Cruise Lines International Association that reported problems with lifejacket lights. The bulletin relates to Alcares water activated flashing lifejacket lights models Jack A1-ALK and Jack ARH-ALK (CG approval numbers 161.112/88 and 161.112/90). To date, inspections have discovered over 3,000 non-operational lights. All of the faulty lights discovered had leaky batteries (Figure 2), and some were identified as having incorrect battery expiration labels. All of the faulty lights were found to be non-operational before their expiration date. Contact Alcares for questions or concerns, including determining if non-operational lights are under warranty for a battery replacement. Phone: +45 47 19 00 00; Email: [alcares@alcares.dk](mailto:alcares@alcares.dk); Website: <http://alcares.dk/leaking-batteries-found/>.

The Coast Guard recommends that lifejackets with lights, especially those with automatic lights, be stored in temperature and humidity controlled, water-tight environments. Visual inspections and tests must be conducted in accordance with vessel carriage requirements and manufacturer manuals. Vessel owners/operators should check their lifejacket lights to verify that they are operational at the nearest opportunity.

This safety alert was developed by the Coast Guard Office of Design and Engineering Standards. Any questions, comments, or incidences of failed lights under these or other Certificates of Approval should be sent to: [Stephanie.M.Groleau@uscg.mil](mailto:Stephanie.M.Groleau@uscg.mil).



**Figure 1: General Leakage Example  
(Not an Alcares Product)**



**Figure 2: Alcares Products Example**