

**RNLI Scotland Division - Regional Licence Application
General Method Statement for Category 6 (a) Works**

Regional Method Statement - Scope of Activities

The RNLI's maintenance activities in this application are split into six categories:

1. Maintenance to moorings (including replacement of fittings)
2. Maintenance to pontoon berths (and associated pilings, link-spans, quay walls and approach structures)
3. Minor beach re-profiling works (and launch route clearance works or minor re-charge works)
4. Maintenance to lifeboat station boathouses (and associated slipways, quay walls, pilings, etc.) of the following form:
 - a) Boathouses seaward of MHWS
 - b) Boathouses where only a slipway or launch ramp is seaward of MHWS
5. Miscellaneous infrastructure, and maintenance activities associated with safety of lifeboat launch and recovery
6. Installation, removal and maintenance of beach lifeguard units of the following form:
 - a) Standard RNLI lifeguard beach units
 - b) Non-standard RNLI lifeguard beach units

This Method Statement covers Category 6 (a) Works and supports the Divisional Licence application:

Category 6 (a) Works – Installation, Removal & Maintenance of Standard Beach Lifeguard Units

Category 6a activities generally comprise:

- Levelling of beach as required prior to installation of standard Lifeguard Tower unit
- Excavation and of beach material for installation / removal for installation of Lifeguard Tower Unit
- Excavation of beach material for installation / removal of steel stanchion base plates (including timber bearers as needed)
- Installation / removal of steel stanchion base plates (and timber bearers).
- Installation / removal of Lifeguard Tower Unit (steel tower frame + lifeguard hut)
- Minor maintenance works to unit comprising repair and/or replacement of internal fittings/fixtures and external fittings/fixtures
- Repairs to lifeguard units (towers, etc.) structure as might be needed for health & safety purposes or to ensure continued operation of units (Note: this items covers unplanned works arising from damage in use)

The lifeguard tower units are generally installed prior to the beginning of each season and removed at the end of each season. The season being nominally 1st May to 31st September. Therefore the units are generally installed from the middle of April onwards, and removed at the beginning of October (with all removal complete by the

end of that month). Importantly, some unit are left in place and not removed at the end of the season. Note that some beach unit removals and installations may take place outside of the main season and the general installation/removal times described above.

The lifeguard units are assembled on the beach from standardised steel framing, and comprise stanchions and base plates, flooring beams, decking, bracing, steps, handrailing, and the prefabricated lifeguard 'hut', all with associated signage, flags and safety equipment, etc. Each unit measures approximately 4.6m x 3.6m on plan.

The stanchion base plates sit within excavated pockets within the beach material (at a depth to suit the consistency of the material, but generally no more than 0.5m below beach level). This requires some excavation of the beach material and also some levelling (re-grading) local to the unit, with the use of a mechanical excavator (wheeled or tracked), and lifting of the components with the use of an excavator, forklift or tele-handler, depending on location and beach conditions.

The units are transported in sections to the beach on a small flatbed lorry or carried with forklift, tele-handler or similar machine. This requires accessing the beach at a location suitable for vehicular access/egress and trafficking across the beach to the lifeguard location.

The timing of the activities varies, but typically the installation is completed within 1 – 3 days, and removal is carried out over a similar timeframe.

Apart from the main installation and removal works which are as described above, all insitu maintenance works are carried out with small hand tools, with 2-4 person teams, and with limited materials.

All works will be subject to Environment Agency guideline PPG5.

Table 1 - Station specific Information – Annex to General Method Statement

Lifeguard Station & Works	Predicted Scale of Activity and Frequency	Additional Comments
None identified	-	-