Proposal for Colour Coding System for IEC/R Classification

There is currently a colour coding (green, yellow and red colour) differentiation mechanism applied to the INSARAG classification and reclassification system. Various consultation opportunities through 2019 have yielded the following feedback:

- It is suggested that the reasoning for and meaning of using a colour coding system be refocused to define quality in the Classification System. The use of colour classifications does not provide enough information for teams to fully address the issues associated with the classification.
- The issuing of advisory notes from the classifiers is a better way to provide feedback and should be encouraged.
- The system does not encourage the issuing of a red classification due to the consequences for the team.
- The system does not encourage continued support from the Mentor to address those items that did not attract a green classification.

The following represents a consolidation of all the feedback to alter the system received to date:

Option 1 – The current colour coding and advisory notes system to remain unchanged.

Option 2 - The colour coding should remain with the following conditions:

- GREEN will indicate that a team has **EXCEEDED** the INSARAG Minimum Standard for USAR Operations. Items coded as Green should be considered as an "INSARAG Best Practice" and not simply meeting of the mimimum stadards.
- YELLOW will indicate that a team has met, but not exceeded, the INSARAG Minimum Standard for USAR Operations. Items coded Yellow will have advisory notes attached that indicate where a team could improve its processes and procedures.
- RED will indicate that a team does not meet the INSARAG Minimum Standard for USAR Operations. Items coded Red will indicate where a team **must** improve its processes and procedures.

Note: Receiving a red coding for any checklist element will not automatically mean that the team has not passed the classification process. If a red coding is allocated to a checklist element the following process will occur:

- The Team Focal Point, the Team Mentor and the INSARAG Secretariat Representative (ISR) will be notified of the red coding as soon as possible and be offered an opportunity to rectify the situation prior to the conclusion of the classification process.
- If it is deemed by the Team Focal Point, Team Mentor, Team Leader of the Classifiers or the IRS that the team cannot rectify the situation prior to the scheduled end of the classification process, the team will be given 30 days from the end of the classification process to develop a corrective action plan to rectify the issue.
- The Team Mentor and the National Operations Focal Point will co-sign the corrective action plan and provide this to the Team Leader of the Classifiers
- Following a review of the corrective action plan the Team Leader Classifier may approve the plan and authorise the team to proceed. The Team Leader Classifer can ask for further information prior to final approval.
- The Team Focal Point and Team Mentor will then have 180 days from the approval of the corrective action plan to provide evidence that the issue has been rectified.

- The Team Focal Point, Team Mentor and the National Operations Focal Point will co-sign the rectification report and submit to the Team Leader Classifier.
- Arrangements will be made for a classifier for the discipline and the ISR to return to the nation to physically view the evolution.
- The Team Leader Classifer will provide a report to the INSARAG Secretariat recommending the team be classified or not.
- If the INSARAG Secretariat and IER Team Leader are not satisfied that the INSARAG Minimum Standard for USAR Operations has been met, the team will not be reclassified.
- The INSARAG Secretariat will have the final decision on whether a team is classified or not and will notify the Team of the final decision.
- This decision is not negotiable, and the team will need to restart the process.

Option 3 - The Colour Coding System to be removed completely and replaced with Advisory Notes.

- The advisory notes will provide detailed explanations for each element of the checklist.
- If it is considered that the Team has exceeded the INSARAG minimum standards the advisory notes will reflect that this element is considered a 'best practice'.
- If it is considered that the Team has not met the INSARAG minimum standards the classifiers will provide the corrective actions required to rectify the issue within the advisory notes.
- The Team Focal Point and Team Mentor will then have 180 days from the end of the classification process to provide evidence that the issue has been rectified as per the advisory notes.
- The Team Focal Point, Team Mentor and the National Operations Focal Point will co-sign the rectification report and submit to the Team Leader Classifier.
- Arrangements will be made for a classifier for the discipline and the ISR to return to the nation to physically view the evolution.
- The Team Leader Classifer will provide a report to the INSARAG Secretariat recommending the team be classified or not.
- If the INSARAG Secretariat and IER Team Leader are not satisfied that the INSARAG Minimum Standard for USAR Operations has been met, the team will not be reclassified.
- The INSARAG Secretariat will have the final decision on whether a team is classifed or not and will notify the Team of the final decsion.
- This decision is not negotiable, and the team will need to restart the process.

Note: For a reclassification, if a red coding is provided, the team will remain classified pending the conclusion of the review process.