

WOLF TS/TR 24+ATEX TORCHES

Available in 6 variations this latest addition to the cluttered torch market has the distinct advantage of meeting Europe's new ATEX standards in a simple, cost effective package that works well. From June 2003 all torches sold in the EU for use in hazardous atmospheres had to meet the ATEX standard. Obviously this has meant that large numbers of emergency services and corporate users have been clamouring to meet the new requirements and the manufacturers have been happy to oblige. Wolf are an established UK company with a strong presence in fire service in the form of their right angled torches. This new range replaces all of these.

CONSTRUCTION

appearances don't come any simpler than this but it belies a host of features: the polycarbonate lens is coated for chemical and scratch resistance. It is housed in a black rubber armoured colour coded bezel - black for T6 and yellow for T4 torches. The moulded yellow body is not ergonomic as such - it's a regulation cylinder with 'go faster' ribs but is has a matt, slightly textured finish rather than the slippery, shiny norm. The head and bottom of the right angled torch has a very sturdy lanyard or split ring eye. On the standard in-line torch there is one eye at the base but a square 'stand' to allow the torch to lie on the ground with the on-off switch uppermost. The right angle torches have a one-piece replaceable belt clip with retaining ridge which seats between two ridges on the body to stop the torch accidentally coming off a belt.

The switch is a wide, low profile black plastic which pushes up for 'ON'. Inside the head of the '+' versions reviewed here is the halogen bulb housing plus spare bulb plus an additional LED circuit to indicate low battery. This glows red through the top of the torch housing when the battery reaches approximately 2%. These torches come with batteries, wrist lanyard and spare bulb.

IN ACTION

Our first question when we get a new torch is not what standards it adheres to or what gadgets are on it - it's how bright is the beam? No point having an all-singing and dancing torch that won't illuminate a hippo on a commando raid in your kitchen! The Wolf torch is perfectly acceptable.




BATTERIES (supplied): 2x R20 (C-Cells)
ORIGIN: UK
COST: £49.99
DIMENSIONS: straight: 200mm x 60mm
 right angle: 190mm x 80mm
WEIGHT exc batteries: 150g straight
 190g right angle
OUTPUT: 290 Lux at 5m (2W)



It's not earth shatteringly bright or a particularly wide beam but for this genre it's good. Having satisfied ourselves of the light output we set about hammering them. We actually used a combination of TS/TR24, TS26 and TS/TR24+ torches but figured early on that this was a dangerous mixture. The '+' models have battery charge status indicators and if you assume your torch has got this because there is no outward difference you could be operating under a false sense of security. No excuse obviously for running out of batteries and having no backup but its amazing how quickly you become reliant on technology. Beware though - the indicator won't glow if the batteries are completely dead! So we whole heartedly recommend the '+' models

because for the extra pennies it's not worth not having. It'll actually save money in the mid-term because you're less likely to throw away batteries early for fear of low power levels.

Quality of construction is very good, this feels reassuringly robust in the hand with a positive switch action easily used with gloves. The merits of a simple stand become obvious once you put the torch down to do something - it doesn't roll away 30 degrees to the left of your target. The torch is also stable stood on end. Wolf's attention to detail was highlighted when the lamp modules were upgraded after a customer dropped one and caused the bulb to stop working - we'd already carried out 1 metre concrete drops and hadn't identified a problem but tougher bulb mounts were fine by us.

The right angle torch has all the same merits - its major difference is the clip mounting it to a belt or pocket. This is one-piece construction relying on the flex in the plastic to open and grip the material. Though small it actually works very well but it can in contrast be a pain in the neck to pull off in a rush! It is replaceable if you manage to break it. The bulb and batteries are easy to access and change, lanyard easily detachable and overall a very capable general purpose torch. 

CONTACT WOLF:

www.wolf-safety.co.uk
 email: info@wolf-safety.co.uk