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GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BUOYANCY AIDS

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Association of Australian Port and Marine Authorities
Australian Canoe Federation
Australian Consumers' Association
Australian Federation of Consumer Organizations Inc.
Australian Yachting Federation
Confederation of Australian Industry
Department of Consumer Affairs, N.S.W.
Department of Defence
Department of Harbours and Marine, Qld
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Buoyancy Aids. It supersedes AS 2259—1984 and takes into account the change in terminology for lifejackets, buoyancy vests and buoyancy garments, which are now referred to as personal flotation devices. The arrangement of the clauses has been altered in an attempt to group the relevant requirements for each type of buoyancy aid together, and some of the test methods have been revised.

Requirements for the performance of retroreflective materials are now included in this Standard rather than in AS 1512, Personal Flotation Devices—Type 1, as was the case in the 1984 editions of the Standards.

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BUOYANCY AIDS

SECTION 1. SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE. This Standard specifies general requirements applicable to buoyancy aids specified in the following Australian Standards:

- AS 1499 Personal Flotation Devices—Type 2.
- AS 1512 Personal Flotation Devices—Type 1.
- AS 2260 Personal Flotation Devices—Type 3.
- AS 2261 Rescue Buoy.
- AS 2262 Float-off Buoyancy Aids.

1.2 APPLICATION. Buoyancy aids, of types as listed in Clause 1.1, shall comply with the requirements of this Standard, in addition to the requirements of the relevant Standard for the particular buoyancy aid.

1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS. The following Standards are referred to in this Standard:

- AS 1192 Electroplated Coatings—Nickel and Chromium.
- AS 1441 Methods of Test for Coated Fabrics.
- AS 1789 Electroplated Coatings of Zinc on Iron or Steel.
- AS 1790 Electroplated Coatings of Cadmium on Iron or Steel.
- AS 1906.1 Retroreflective Materials and Devices Part 1: Retroreflective Materials.
- AS 2001 Methods of Test for Textiles.
 - AS 2001.1 Conditioning Procedures.
 - AS 2001.2.10 Determination of the Tear Resistance of Woven Textile Fabrics by the Wing-rip Method.
 - AS 2001.2.17 Determination of Resistance of Fabrics to Water Penetration—Hydrostatic Pressure Test.
- AS 2030 SAA Gas Cylinders Code.
- AS 2193 Methods for Calibration and Grading of Force-measuring Systems of Testing Machines.
- AS 2227 Yachtsmen's Safety Harnesses and Lines.
- AS 2324 PVC Film and Sheeting.
- AS 2332 Slide Fasteners.
- AS 2860 Textiles—Stitch Types—Classification and Terminology.
- BS 1425 Cleanliness of Fillings and Stuffings for Bedding, Upholstery, Toys and Other Domestic Articles.
- BS 2782 Methods of Testing Plastics.
- BS 3424 Methods of Test for Coated Fabrics.

1.4 DEFINITIONS. For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions below apply.

1.4.1 Buoyancy aid—a device designed to assist a person to float in water.

1.4.2 Personal flotation device (PFD)—a buoyancy aid which is worn on the body.

1.4.3 PFD Type 1—a personal flotation device which is intended to maintain the wearer in a safe floating position. It is intended for use aboard pleasure boats in waters where early rescue may be expected.

NOTES:

1. PFD Type 1s were previously known as 'lifejackets'.
2. Statutory Marine Authorities have regulations covering pleasure boating and related activities including the type of PFDs which need to be worn or carried on board when using various waterways.

1.4.4 PFD Type 2—a personal flotation device intended to assist flotation during short-term immersion in sheltered waters during daylight hours. It is intended for use aboard pleasure boats and when participating in aquatic sports such as canoeing, board sailing, water skiing, and the like.

NOTE: PFD Type 2s were previously known as 'buoyancy vests'.

1.4.5 PFD Type 3—a personal flotation device intended for use in supervised situations where the wearer is at risk of short-term immersion in water during daylight hours. It is intended for use by water-skiers and other people who may be at risk of short-term immersion where assistance is immediately on hand.

NOTE: PFD Type 3s were previously known as 'buoyancy garments'.

1.4.6 Rescue buoy—a buoyancy aid intended to be thrown or dropped to a person in water to assist in effecting rescue.

NOTE: Lifebuoys carried by commercial vessels are subject to Navigation and Marine Acts and Regulations.

1.4.7 Float-off buoyancy aid—a buoyancy aid intended to be carried on small boats and to float free in order to assist flotation of survivors during short-term immersion.

1.4.8 Air cell—a sealed compartment using air or air together with some other suitable material to hold apart the walls of that compartment to provide buoyancy.

1.4.9 Outer covering—the material which encases the source of buoyancy. Where there is more than one layer of material encasing the source of buoyancy it shall refer to the outermost layer.