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AS 1512—1988

DR 94342 ED.



**Standards  
Association of  
Australia**



# Australian Standard® 1512—1988

## PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES— TYPE 1

**AS 1512—1996**  
**Personal flotation devices—**  
**Type 1**  
 8pp CC

Specifies requirements for personal flotation devices with a high level of buoyancy designed to maintain the wearer in a safe floating position and intended for use aboard pleasure boats which may venture beyond sheltered waters, and in other situations where water conditions or injury may impede the wearer's ability to swim. Appendices include comparative test methods for the maintenance of a safe floating position.

(CS/60): Supersedes AS 1512—1988.  
 DR 94342: Publication date 1996-01-05.



[Title allocated by Defence Cataloguing Authority: LIFE PRESERVER, VEST: HOOD AND VEST (For use in small boats in partially smooth waters) NSC 4220]

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee CS/60, Buoyancy Aids. It was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 9 November 1987 and published on 4 January 1988.

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The following interests are represented on Committee CS/60:

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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Department of Sport and Recreation, N.S.W.  
Department of Transport and Communications  
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Ministry of Transport, Vic.  
National Safety Council of Australia  
New South Wales Water Ski Association  
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Suggestions for improvements to Australian Standards, addressed to the head office of the Association, are welcomed. Notification of any inaccuracy or ambiguity found in an Australian Standard should be made without delay in order that the matter may be investigated and appropriate action taken.

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*This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 86208.*

by Aids. It was  
Australia on

STANDARDS ASSOCIATION  
OF AUSTRALIA

Date 870424 File No.

Memo. by Kathryn To: John Henry

Re Letter of date

The State Govt is bringing in regulations requiring additional retroreflective material to be seen or stuck on existing life jackets etc.

As far as SAA goes, this could invalidate our approvals of life jackets etc.

A committee meeting is to be held on 28, 29 April to discuss the regulations.

Retroreflective material can be stuck on life jackets etc as long as it passes the different tests specified in AS 2259.

~~John Henry~~  
987-09-30 Victoria has gone ahead with reg. on stick on only if existing jacket - not completely satisfactory do not come off & can invalidate approval  
A31 Inquiries -> RFD Safety marine OR  
MR. Alex Shaw, Marine Board of Vic 641377 (SAA Ctee)

standards are subject to editions as necessary. of the latest edition, and  
lications; this information which subscribing members, and of with-  
Office of the Association, lian standard should be riate action taken.

**AUSTRALIAN STANDARD**

**PERSONAL FLOTATION  
DEVICES—  
TYPE 1**

**AS 1512—1988**

First published as AS Z27—1966.  
Second edition 1968.  
Third edition 1971.  
Revised and redesignated as AS 1512—1973.  
Second edition 1979.  
Third edition 1981.  
Fourth edition 1983.  
Fifth edition 1984.  
Sixth edition 1988.

**PUBLISHED BY THE STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
STANDARDS HOUSE, 80 ARTHUR ST, NORTH SYDNEY, N.S.W.**

ISBN 0 7262 4803 7

## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Buoyancy Aids. It supersedes AS 1512—1984, Lifejackets.

The Committee was concerned that the term 'Lifejacket', although widely used, implied in some people's minds a product which would guarantee protection from drowning under all conditions. This was clearly beyond the scope of this Standard and was more applicable to a SOLAS lifejacket. In order to eliminate any confusion the Committee decided to adopt the U.S. terminology 'Personal Flotation Devices' for buoyancy aids which are worn on the body. Thus what were known as 'lifejackets' in previous editions of AS 1512 have become 'Personal Flotation Devices—Type 1'.

The Committee was aware of regulations in force in some areas which require a PFD Type 1 to be fitted with a greater area of retroreflective material than is specified in this Standard. The Committee examined the matter in detail and could not find sufficient justification for increasing the requirements specified in Clause 3.5. It should, however, be noted that the requirements of this Standard do not preclude the fitting of additional retroreflective material, provided that it is done in accordance with the requirements of this Standard and AS 2259, General Requirements for Buoyancy Aids.

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# STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## Australian Standard

### PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES—TYPE 1

#### SECTION 1. SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE.** This Standard specifies requirements for personal flotation devices which are intended to maintain the wearer in a safe floating position.

**1.2 APPLICATION.** This Standard applies to personal flotation devices intended for use aboard pleasure boats in waters where early rescue may be expected.

NOTE: 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.

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

- AS 1499 Personal Flotation Devices—Type 2.
- AS 2001 Methods of Test for Textiles.
  - AS 2001.4.14—Colourfastness Tests—Determination of Colourfastness to Seawater.
  - AS 2001.4.21—Colourfastness Tests—Determination of Colourfastness to Light Using an Artificial Light Source (Mercury Vapour, Tungsten Filament, Internally Phosphor-coated Lamp).
- AS 2259 General Requirements for Buoyancy Aids.
- AS 2260 Personal Flotation Devices—Type 3.
- AS 2700 Colour Standards for General Purposes.

#### 1.4 CLASSIFICATION.

**1.4.1 Type.** Personal flotation devices shall be classified according to the level of protection that they offer the wearer, as follows:

PFD Type 1—Previously known as lifejackets—specified in this Standard.

PFD Type 2—Previously known as buoyancy vests—specified in AS 1499.

PFD Type 3—Previously known as buoyancy garments—specified in AS 2260.

**1.4.2 Body mass.** Inherently buoyant personal flotation devices shall be classified in terms of the minimum buoyancy deemed to be adequate for intended wearers, within the ranges of body mass as follows:

- Body mass 35 kg and over.
- Body mass 25 kg to 40 kg.
- Body mass 15 kg to 30 kg.
- Body mass 10 kg to 20 kg.

NOTE: Because of the difficulties in design and testing, this Standard does not include personal flotation devices for body mass below 10 kg.

Personal flotation devices in the two lower ranges of body mass shall be considered to be 'children's personal flotation devices'.

Personal flotation devices relying on inflatable chambers as a source of buoyancy shall be provided only in one or more of the two upper ranges of body mass.

**1.5 DEFINITIONS.** For the purpose of this Standard the definitions below apply.

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

**1.5.2 Personal Flotation Device (PFD)**—A buoyancy aid which is worn on the body.

**1.5.3 Confident in the water**—capable of entering the water without panicking, becoming alarmed or becoming rigid.

**1.5.4 Reversible PFD**—a personal flotation device, the physical appearance and function of which is virtually identical when worn in either the normal or the 'inside-out' configuration.

NOTE: For the purpose of this definition the use of printing or different colours on a PFD is not considered to be part of its physical appearance.