

Australian Standard™

**Flotation aids for water familiarization
and swimming tuition**



S t a n d a r d s Australia

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee CS-021, Swimming Aids. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 30 November 2001 and published on 21 January 2002.

The following interests are represented on Committee CS-021:

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Australian Retailers Association
Australian Toy Association
Austswim
Department of Fair Trading, Consumer Protection Agency, N.S.W.
Department of Sport and Recreation, N.S.W.
Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs, Australia
Institution of Engineers Australia
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National Safety Council of Australia
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Royal Life Saving Society, Australia
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**Flotation aids for water familiarization
and swimming tuition**

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee CS-021, Swimming Aids, to supersede AS 1900—1991, *Flotation toys and swimming aids for children* following agreement within the Committee that a revision was required to simplify the Standard.

The principal difference from the previous edition is a reduction in the categories of product covered. The Standard is now limited to flotation aids worn on or attached to the body, or in which the user sits, and which provide flotation assistance to enable a person to gain confidence through water familiarization or be given swimming tuition.

The Committee agreed that flotation toys should be covered by the AS 1647 series, and that unattached flotation devices should no longer be included within AS 1900.

Other changes of note in this revision, which now covers flotation aids for people of all ages (as opposed to children only in the previous edition), are as follows:

- (a) A reduction in the overpressure test from 20 kPa to 15 kPa. 15 kPa is approximately twice the pressure which an adult could be expected to achieve via oration.
- (b) A simplification of the marking requirements.
- (c) The addition of an appendix outlining a test for resistance to chlorinated water and ultra-violet light.
- (d) The addition of an appendix outlining tests for determining fastener security.
- (e) The addition of an appendix outlining a test for determining the durability of markings.
- (f) An expansion of the information to be supplied with a flotation aid.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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FOREWORD

The simplification of AS 1900 in this revision is seen by the members of Committee CS-021 as a positive step in an attempt to reduce the number of drownings and near-drownings each year which occur in both municipal and backyard swimming pools.

The Committee agreed that AS 1900 should focus on the in-water safety of non-swimmers and that the scope of the Standard should be restricted. The Standard now caters only for those flotation aids worn on or attached to the body, or in which the user sits, and are specifically designed to either enable individuals to gain confidence through water familiarization, or to assist them in acquiring unaided buoyancy through swimming tuition.

The reason for the exclusion of flotation toys from this edition of AS 1900 is that, although such items are unarguably used most of the time to provide flotation assistance, they are first and foremost toys, and should therefore be encompassed within the AS 1917 series, which was written specifically for toys. Similarly, kickboards and other unattached flotation devices are also excluded from this Standard as such items are generally used either in conjunction with a flotation aid for swimming tuition or as a training aid for people who are able to swim.

This Standard is aimed at specifying design and performance requirements for manufacturers of flotation aids. The marking requirements are seen by the consumer organizations represented on Committee CS-021 as providing an efficiently strong message to the purchasers of these products.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Flotation aids for water familiarization and swimming tuition

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies requirements for the design, performance and marking of flotation aids worn on or attached to the body or in which the user sits for the purpose of either enabling persons to gain confidence through water familiarization, or to assist them in acquiring unaided buoyancy through swimming tuition.

The Standard does not apply to—

- (a) flotation toys;
- (b) unattached flotation devices;
- (c) articles designed only for therapeutic use;
- (d) articles designed for use by disabled persons; and
- (e) personal flotation devices (PFDs) used in boating and other recreational water activities.

NOTES:

- 1 PFDs have different applications and are covered by other Standards. In general, the requirements specified in the PFD Standards* are more stringent than those specified herein.
- 2 Appendix A contains a list of typical products covered by this Standard and those that are not.

1.2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Standard is to provide requirements for the manufacture of flotation aids for non-swimmers which assist them in—

- (a) becoming familiarized with water; and
- (b) learning to swim.

1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard.

| | |
|-----------|--|
| AS 1192 | Electroplated coatings—Nickel and chromium |
| AS 1547 | Children's toys (Safety requirements) |
| AS 1647.2 | Part 2: Constructional requirements |
| AS 1789 | Electroplated coatings—Zinc on iron or steel |

* AS 1512, *Personal flotation devices—Type 1*.

AS 1499, *Personal flotation devices—Type 2*.

AS 2260, *Personal flotation devices—Type 3*.