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GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BUOYANCY AIDS

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Association of Australian Port and Marine Authorities
Australian Water Ski Association
Australian Yachting Federation
Chief Secretary's Office, Victoria
Department of Consumer Affairs, New South Wales
Department of Defence
Department of Transport and Construction
Harbours and Marine Department, Queensland
Manufacturers of Buoyancy Aids
Maritime Services Board of New South Wales
Metal Trades Industry Association of Australia
National Safety Council of South Australia
New South Wales Police Department
Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol

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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

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PREFACE

This edition of this standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Buoyancy Aids to supersede AS 2259—1981.

This edition incorporates new requirements for air cells, kapok and fastenings and fittings as well as improvements in the test methods for determination of buoyancy, strength of fastening devices and weld strength of PVC envelopes. 'D'-rings and tie tapes are no longer acceptable as a means of securing buoyancy aids intended for use by persons of body mass greater than 25 kg.

Guidance on the selection and care of buoyancy aids is given in AS 2258, Code for the Selection and Care of Buoyancy Aids.

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard
for

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BUOYANCY AIDS

SECTION 1. SCOPE, APPLICATION AND DEFINITIONS

1.1 SCOPE. This standard specifies the general requirements applicable to buoyancy aids described in the following Australian standards:

- AS 1499 Buoyancy Vests
- AS 1512 Lifejackets
- AS 2260 Buoyancy Garments
- AS 2261 Rescue Buoys
- AS 2262 Float-off Buoyancy Aids

1.2 APPLICATION. Buoyancy aids, of types as defined in Clause 1.4, shall comply with the requirements of this standard in addition to the requirements of the relevant standard for the particular aid.

1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS. The following standards are referred to in this standard:

- AS 1091 Method for the Determination of the Tear Resistance of Woven Textile Fabrics by the Wing-rip Method
- AS 1192 Electroplated Coatings—Nickel and Chromium
- AS 1441 Methods of Test for Coated Fabrics
- AS 1789 Electroplated Coatings of Zinc on Iron and Steel
- AS 1790 Electroplated Coatings of Cadmium on Iron and Steel
- AS 2324 PVC Film and Sheeting
- AS 2332 Slide Fasteners
- BS 1425 Cleanliness of Fillings and Staffings for Bedding, Upholstery, Toys and Other Domestic Articles
- BS 2782 Methods of Testing Plastics
- BS 3424 Methods of Test for Coated Fabrics

BS 3870 Schedule of Stitches, Seams and Stitchings

1.4 DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this standard, the following definitions apply:

1.4.1 Buoyancy aid—a device designed to assist a person to remain afloat in water until rescue is effected.

1.4.2 Lifejacket—a buoyancy aid worn on the body which is intended to maintain the wearer in a safe floating position. It is intended for use in waters where early rescue may be anticipated.

NOTE: Attention is drawn to Navigation and Marine Acts and Regulations relating to lifejackets for commercial vessels and regulations relating to lifejackets in commercial aircraft.

1.4.3 Buoyancy vest—a buoyancy aid worn on the body and intended for use in aquatic sports, to assist flotation during short-term immersion in smooth waters.

1.4.4 Buoyancy garment—a buoyancy aid, other than a lifejacket or buoyancy vest, worn on the body and intended for use when the wearer is at risk of immersion in water.

1.4.5 Rescue buoy—a buoyancy aid intended to be thrown or otherwise delivered 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.

1.4.6 Float-off buoyancy aid—a buoyancy aid intended for any use in a boat and to be available to provide additional buoyancy should the boat sink.

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