

# Australian Standard<sup>®</sup> 2259—1984

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## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BUOYANCY AIDS

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**STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**  
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The following interests are represented on Committee CS/60:

- Association of Australian Port and Marine Authorities
  - Australian Water Ski Association
  - Australian Yachting Federation
  - Department of Consumer Affairs, N.S.W.
  - Department of Defence
  - Department of Transport
  - Manufacturers of Buoyancy Aids
  - Metal Trades Industry Association of Australia
  - National Safety Council of South Australia
  - N.S.W. Police Department
  - Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol
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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

# GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BUOYANCY AIDS

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## PREFACE

This edition of this standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Buoyancy Aids to supersede AS 2259—1983.

This edition incorporates a revision of the requirements for inflatable chambers following a renewal of interest in this type of buoyancy aid. Several of the requirements in the previous edition were found to be impractical when they were applied to inflatable lifejackets of a type which the committee found to be acceptable. These requirements have now been modified or, in some cases, deleted.

The requirements for fastenings and fittings have now been modified to require the use of a positive locking device on all buoyancy aids worn on the body, not just those in the larger body mass ranges.

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 AND GENERAL

**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 2030	SAA Gas Cylinders Code
AS 2324	PVC Film and Sheeting
AS 2332	Slide Fasteners
BS 1425	Cleanliness of Filling and Stuffings 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 purpose 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 floating during short-term immersion in smooth water.

**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.