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PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES— TYPE 3

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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

**PERSONAL FLOTATION
DEVICES—
TYPE 3**

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Buoyancy Aids. It supersedes AS 2260—1984, Buoyancy Garments.

This Standard differs from the 1984 edition in that the term 'Buoyancy Garment' has been replaced by 'Personal Flotation Device—Type 3'. This terminology is broadly in line with that used in the United States and it is hoped that this will overcome the confusion in some people's minds regarding the difference between what were formerly called 'buoyancy vests' and 'buoyancy garments'. The difference is, in fact, the allowable colours rather than the styles of the two types of personal flotation devices referred to as PFD Type 2 and PFD Type 3 in AS 1499 and AS 2260 respectively.

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES—TYPE 3

SECTION 1. SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE. This Standard specifies requirements for personal flotation devices intended for use in supervised situations to assist flotation during short-term immersion in water during daylight hours.

1.2 APPLICATION. This Standard applies to personal flotation devices which are intended to be used by water skiers and other people who may be at risk of short-term immersion where assistance is immediately on hand.

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 1512 Personal Flotation Devices—Type 1.

AS 2259 General Requirements for Buoyancy Aids.

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 AS 1512.

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

PFD Type 3 Previously known as buoyancy garments—specified in this Standard.

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'.

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.

SECTION 2. MINIMUM BUOYANCY AND IN-WATER PERFORMANCE

2.1 MINIMUM BUOYANCY. When determined in the manner described in Appendix A of AS 2259, the buoyancy of a PFD Type 3 shall not be less than the following:

Body mass	Buoyancy
35 kg and over	40 N
25 kg to 40 kg	31 N
15 kg to 30 kg	22 N
10 kg to 20 kg	16 N

2.2 IN-WATER PERFORMANCE.

2.2.1 Children's PFD Type 3s. When tested in accordance with Appendix A, a child's PFD Type 3 shall support the wearer in the water with the wearer's mouth clear of the water. There shall be no tendency to tip the wearer forward from the vertical.

2.2.2 Other PFD Type 3s. When tested in accordance with Appendix B, a PFD Type 3 other than a child's PFD Type 3, shall support the wearer in the water with the wearer's mouth clear of the water. There shall be no tendency to tip the wearer forward from the vertical.