

# DRAFT INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## ISO/DIS 12402-2

ISO/TC 188/SC 1

Secretariat: DIN

Voting begins on:  
2015-06-11

Voting terminates on:  
2015-09-11

---

---

## Personal flotation devices —

### Part 2: Lifejackets, performance level 275 — Safety requirements

*Équipements individuels de flottabilité —*

*Partie 2: Gilets de sauvetage, niveau de performance 275 — Exigences de sécurité*

ICS: 13.340.70

**iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW**  
(standards.iteh.ai)  
Full standard:  
<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/0deb7ab5-a957-416a-8580-1d02adea7d9c/iso-12402-2-2020>

#### ISO/CEN PARALLEL PROCESSING

This draft has been developed within the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and processed under the **ISO lead** mode of collaboration as defined in the Vienna Agreement.

This draft is hereby submitted to the ISO member bodies and to the CEN member bodies for a parallel five month enquiry.

Should this draft be accepted, a final draft, established on the basis of comments received, will be submitted to a parallel two-month approval vote in ISO and formal vote in CEN.

To expedite distribution, this document is circulated as received from the committee secretariat. ISO Central Secretariat work of editing and text composition will be undertaken at publication stage.

THIS DOCUMENT IS A DRAFT CIRCULATED FOR COMMENT AND APPROVAL. IT IS THEREFORE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND MAY NOT BE REFERRED TO AS AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD UNTIL PUBLISHED AS SUCH.

IN ADDITION TO THEIR EVALUATION AS BEING ACCEPTABLE FOR INDUSTRIAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, COMMERCIAL AND USER PURPOSES, DRAFT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS MAY ON OCCASION HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR POTENTIAL TO BECOME STANDARDS TO WHICH REFERENCE MAY BE MADE IN NATIONAL REGULATIONS.

RECIPIENTS OF THIS DRAFT ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT, WITH THEIR COMMENTS, NOTIFICATION OF ANY RELEVANT PATENT RIGHTS OF WHICH THEY ARE AWARE AND TO PROVIDE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION.



Reference number  
ISO/DIS 12402-2:2015(E)

© ISO 2015

**iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW**  
**(standards.iteh.ai)**

Full standard:  
<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/0deb7ab5-a957-416a-8580-1d02adea7d9c/iso-12402-2-2020>



**COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT**

© ISO 2015

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11  
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47  
E-mail [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Web [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

Published in Switzerland

# Contents

Page

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Foreword .....                                      | v     |
| Introduction.....                                   | vii   |
| 1 Scope.....  | ix    |
| 2 Normative references.....                         | ix    |
| 3 Terms and definitions .....                       | ix    |
| 4 Classification .....                              | xii   |
| 4.1 Classes .....                                   | xii   |
| 4.1.1 Buoyancy Aids.....                            | xii   |
| 4.1.2 Lifejackets .....                             | xii   |
| 4.1.3 Special purpose devices.....                  | xii   |
| 4.2 Performance levels.....                         | xii   |
| 4.2.1 Level 50 .....                                | xii   |
| 4.2.2 Level 100 .....                               | xiii  |
| 4.2.3 Level 150 .....                               | xiii  |
| 4.2.4 Level 275 .....                               | xiii  |
| 5 Requirements.....                                 | xiii  |
| 5.1 General .....                                   | xiii  |
| 5.1.1 Materials and Components.....                 | xiii  |
| 5.1.2 Primary means of inflation .....              | xiv   |
| 5.1.3 Body Strap and Lacing ends requirements.....  | xiv   |
| 5.1.4 Inflation Status Indicators .....             | xiv   |
| 5.1.5 Ride-Up prevention system.....                | xiv   |
| 5.1.6 Rearming and Repacking Information .....      | xv    |
| 5.1.7 Secondary Donning.....                        | xv    |
| 5.2 Combination of lifejackets and accessories..... | xv    |
| 5.2.1 General .....                                 | xv    |
| 5.2.2 Whistle.....                                  | xv    |
| 5.2.3 Sprayhood .....                               | xv    |
| 5.3 Types of buoyancy .....                         | xvi   |
| 5.3.1 General .....                                 | xvi   |
| 5.3.2 Inflatable buoyancy chambers .....            | xvi   |
| 5.3.3 Total buoyancy provided.....                  | xvi   |
| 5.4 Conspicuousness.....                            | xvii  |
| 5.4.1 Colour .....                                  | xvii  |
| 5.4.2 Retroreflective material.....                 | xvii  |
| 5.5 Strength.....                                   | xvii  |
| 5.6 Performance.....                                | xvii  |
| 5.6.1 General .....                                 | xvii  |
| 5.6.2 Donning, adjustment and fit.....              | xviii |
| 5.6.3 In-water performance .....                    | xix   |
| 5.7 Multi-chamber buoyancy systems.....             | xix   |
| 6 Marking.....                                      | xx    |
| 6.1 General .....                                   | xx    |
| 6.2 Information on the lifejacket .....             | xx    |
| 7 Information supplied by the manufacturer .....    | xxi   |
| 8 Consumer information at point of sale .....       | xxii  |
| 8.1 General .....                                   | xxii  |
| 8.2 Plain text version.....                         | xxii  |

|     |                    |    |
|-----|--------------------|----|
| 8.3 | Data list .....    | 25 |
| 8.4 | Pictograms .....   | 26 |
| 8.5 | Colour-code .....  | 26 |
|     | Bibliography ..... | 27 |

**iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW**  
(standards.iteh.ai)  
Full standard:  
<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/0deb7ab5-a957-416a-8580-1d02adea7d9c/iso-12402-2-2020>

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 12402-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 188, *Small craft*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Personal Safety Equipment*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 12402-2:2006, ISO 12402:2006/A.1:2010), of which have been technically revised. The main changes with respect to the previous edition are listed below:

- a) Term "bunching" was added (see 3.20);
- b) Level 50 was modified (see 4.2.4);
- c) General requirements were modified (see 5.1);
- d) Requirements for lifting loops were moved to part 8;
- e) Requirement for different types of buoyancy were modified (see 5.3 and table 2);
- f) Requirements on inherently buoyant material was deleted;
- g) Requirements on strength were added (see 5.5);
- h) Requirements on performance were modified (see 5.6).

## ISO/DIS 12402-2

ISO 12402 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Personal flotation devices*:

- Part 2: *Lifejackets, performance level 275 - Safety requirements*;
- Part 3: *Lifejackets, performance level 150 - Safety requirements*;
- Part 4: *Lifejackets, performance level 100 - Safety requirements*;
- Part 5: *Buoyancy aids (level 50) - Safety requirements*;
- Part 6: *Special purpose lifejackets and buoyancy aids - Safety requirements and additional test methods*;
- Part 7: *Materials and components - Safety requirements and test methods*;
- Part 8: *Safety requirements and test methods*;
- Part 9: *Test methods*;
- Part 10: *Selection and application of personal flotation devices and other relevant devices*.

**iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW**  
(standards.iteh.ai)

Full standard:  
<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/0deb7ab5-a957-416a-8580-1d02adea7d9c/iso-12402-2-2020>

## Introduction

This part of ISO 12402 specifies the safety requirements for Personal Flotation Device (PFD) for persons engaged in activities, whether in relation to their work or their leisure in or near water. PFDs manufactured, selected, and maintained to this standard should give a reasonable assurance of safety from drowning to a person who is immersed in water.

Requirements for lifejackets on large, commercial seagoing ships are regulated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS).

ISO 12402 allows for the buoyancy of a PFD to be provided by a wide variety of materials or designs, some of which may require preparation before entering the water (e.g. inflation of chambers by gas from a cylinder or blown in orally). However, PFDs can be divided into the following two main classes:

- those which provide face up in-water support to the user regardless of physical conditions (lifejackets), and
- those which require the user to make swimming and other postural movements to position the user with the face out of the water (buoyancy aids).

Within these main two classes there are a number of levels of support, types of buoyancy, activation methods for inflatable devices, and auxiliary items (such as location aids), all of which will affect the user's probability of survival. Within the different types of buoyancy allowed, inflatable PFDs either provide full buoyancy without any user intervention other than arming (i.e. PFDs inflated by a fully automatic method) or require the user to initiate the inflation. Hybrid PFDs always provide some buoyancy but rely on the same methods as inflatable PFDs to achieve full buoyancy. With inherently buoyant PFDs, the user only needs to put the PFD on to achieve the performance of its class.

PFDs that do not require intervention (automatically operating PFDs) are suited to activities where persons are likely to enter the water unexpectedly; whereas PFDs requiring intervention (e.g. manually inflated PFDs) are only suitable for use if the user believes there will be sufficient time to produce full buoyancy, or help is close at hand. In every circumstance, the user should ensure that the operation of the PFD is suited to the specific application. The conformity of a PFD to this part of ISO 12402 does not imply that it is suitable for all circumstances. The relative amount of required inspection and maintenance is another factor of paramount importance in the choice and application of specific PFDs.

ISO 12402 is intended to serve as a guide to manufacturers, purchasers, and users of such safety equipment in ensuring that the equipment provides an effective standard of performance in use. Equally essential is the need for the designer to encourage the wearing of the equipment by making it comfortable and attractive for continuous wear on or near water, rather than for it to be stored in a locker for emergency use. Throwable devices and flotation cushions are not covered by this part of ISO 12402. The primary function of a PFD is to support the user in reasonable safety in the water. Within the two classes, alternative attributes make some PFDs better suited to some circumstances than others or make them easier to use and care for than others. Important alternatives allowed by ISO 12402 are the following:

- to provide higher levels of support (levels 100, 150, or 275) that generally float the user with greater water clearance, enabling the user's efforts to be expended in recovery rather than avoiding waves; or to provide lighter or less bulky PFDs (levels 50 or 100);
- to provide the kinds of flotation (inherently buoyant foam, hybrid, and inflatable) that will accommodate the sometimes conflicting needs of reliability and durability, in-water performance, and continuous wear;
- to provide automatically operating (inherently buoyant or automatically inflated) PFDs that float users without any intervention on their part, except in initially donning the PFD (and regular inspection and

rearming of inflatable types), or to provide user control of the inflatable PFD's buoyancy by manual and oral operation; and

- to assist in detection (location aids) and recovery of the user.

PFDs provide various degrees of buoyancy in garments that are light in weight and only as bulky and restrictive as needed for their intended use. They will need to be secure when worn, in order to provide positive support in the water and to allow the user to swim or actively assist herself/himself or others. The PFD selected shall ensure that the user is supported with the mouth and nose clear of the water under the expected conditions of use and the user's ability to assist.

Under certain conditions (such as rough water and waves), the use of watertight and multilayer clothing, which provide (intentionally or otherwise) additional buoyancy, or the use of equipment with additional weight (such as tool belts) will likely alter the performance of the PFD. Users, owners and employers need to ensure that this is taken into account when selecting a PFD. Similarly, PFDs may not perform as well in extremes of temperature, although fully approved under this part of ISO 12402. PFDs may also be affected by other conditions of use, such as chemical exposure and welding, and may require additional protection to meet the specific requirements of use. If the user intends taking a PFD into such conditions, she/he has to be assured that the PFD will not be adversely affected. This part of ISO 12402 also allows a PFD to be an integral part of a safety harness designed to conform to ISO 12401, or an integral part of a garment with other uses, for example to provide thermal protection during immersion, in which case the complete assembly as used is required to conform to this part of ISO 12402.

In compiling the attributes required of a PFD, consideration has also been given to the potential length of service that the user might expect. Whilst a PFD needs to be of substantial construction and material, its potential length of service often depends on the conditions of use and storage, which are the responsibility of the owner, user and/or employer. Furthermore, whilst the performance tests included are believed to assess relevant aspects of performance in real-life use, they do not accurately simulate all conditions of use. For example, the fact that a device passes the self-righting tests in swimming attire, as described herein, does not guarantee that it will self-right an unconscious user wearing clothing; neither can it be expected to completely protect the airway of an unconscious person in rough water. Waterproof clothing can trap air and further impair the self-righting action of a lifejacket.

It is essential that owners, users and employers choose those PFDs that meet the correct standards for the circumstances in which they will be used. Manufacturers and those selling PFDs have to make clear to prospective purchasers the product properties, alternative choices and the limitations to normal use, prior to the purchase.

Similarly, those framing legislation regarding the use of these garments should consider carefully which class and performance levels are most appropriate for the foreseeable conditions of use, allowing for the higher risk circumstances. These higher risk circumstances should account for the highest probabilities of occurrence of accidental immersion and the expected consequences in such emergencies. More information on the selection and application is given in ISO 12402-10.



# Personal flotation devices — Part 2: Lifejackets, performance level 275 - Safety requirements

## 1 Scope

This part of ISO 12402 specifies the safety requirements for lifejackets, performance level 275. It applies to lifejackets for adults, children or infants for offshore use under extreme conditions.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/DIS 12402-5:2015, *Personal flotation devices — Part 5: Buoyancy aids (level 50) — Safety requirements*

ISO/DIS 12402-7: 2015, *Personal flotation devices — Part 7: Materials and components — Safety requirements and test methods*

ISO/DIS 12402-8: 2015, *Personal flotation devices — Part 8: Accessories — Safety requirements and test methods*

ISO/DIS 12402-9: 2015, *Personal flotation devices — Part 9: Test methods*

IMO Resolution A.658 (16), *Use and fitting of retro-reflective materials on life-saving appliances*, International Maritime Organization<sup>1)</sup>

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

### 3.1

#### **personal flotation device PFD**

garment or device which, when correctly worn and used in water, will provide the user with a specific amount of buoyancy which will increase the likelihood of survival

### 3.2

#### **inherently buoyant material**

material which is permanently less dense than water

### 3.3

#### **automatically inflated PFD**

PFD in which inflation is effected as a result of immersion without the user carrying out any action at the time of immersion

### 3.4

#### **manually inflated PFD**

PFD in which inflation is effected as a result of the user operating a mechanism

<sup>1)</sup> IMO is an institution with domicile in London issuing regulations which are then published as laws by its Member States.

**3.5**

**orally inflated PFD**

PFD inflated by mouth to produce buoyancy

**3.6**

**PFD with secondary donning**

PFD for which additional donning or adjustment is needed to place the PFD in its functioning position from the position it is normally worn

Note 1 to entry: Pouch-type devices are examples of the type of PFDs which usually require such additional positioning.

**3.7**

**vest-type PFD**

PFD covering the upper trunk of the user like a vest

**3.8**

**yoke-type PFD**

PFD in a style worn around the back of the neck and secured by a waist strap

**3.9**

**emergency position indicating light**

device which emits light so as to increase the chances of a user being located

**3.10**

**multi-chamber buoyancy system**

PFD with buoyancy to meet the applicable PFD performance requirement provided by multiple sources including, for example, devices with two or more independent inflatable chambers or hybrids, for which each chamber independently provides at least the in-water performance conforming to ISO 12402-5

Note 1 to entry: This excludes supplemental inflation chambers.

**3.11**

**deck safety harness and safety line**

device that allows a user to be securely attached to a strong point on a vessel or on shore, so as to prevent him from falling into the water, or, if he does fall into the water, to prevent him from being separated from the vessel or shore

**3.12**

**buddy line**

length of cord which can be tied or otherwise fixed to another person or to that person's PFD or other objects, so as to keep a user in the vicinity of that person or object with a view to making location and thus rescue easier

**3.13**

**lifting loop**

device which facilitates manual recovery of a person from water

**3.14**

**sprayhood**

cover brought or placed in front of the airways of a user in order to reduce or eliminate the splashing of water from waves or the like onto the airways, and thereby promoting the survival of the user in rough water conditions

**3.15**

**protective cover**

cover that is normally in place over the functional elements of a PFD in order to protect them from physical damage, or snagging on external objects