
**Floating leisure articles for use on and
in the water —**

**Part 4:
Additional specific safety
requirements and test methods for
Class B devices**

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Articles de loisirs flottants à utiliser sur ou dans l'eau —

*Partie 4: Exigences de sécurité et méthodes d'essai complémentaires
propres aux dispositifs de Classe B*

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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html. (standards.itech.ai)

ISO 25649-4 was prepared by the European Committee Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 136, *Sports, playground and other recreational facilities and equipment*, in collaboration with ISO Technical Committee TC 83, *Sports and other recreational facilities and equipment*, in accordance with the agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

A list of all the parts in the ISO 25649-series can be found on the ISO website.

Introduction

0.1 General

Class B devices are marketed and used for the purpose of activities in the water. In distinction to other floating devices they are characterized by a typically partly immersed position of the user inside the device.

In case of Class B1 products, i.e. the swim seat for children above three years of age (36 months), user's position might be such that in case of very young users (non swimmers four years and above) the body is kept afloat and laterally supported by a surrounding inflatable structure which provides a relatively tight fit between user and buoyant structure. This in turn incorporates the potential risk of body entrapment in case of a capsizing.

Class B1-type products for children below three years of age (36 months) are dealt with in EN 13138-3.

The development of new products in this area is progressing. Beyond the classical swim seat rafts for more dynamic action on and in the water different body postures and extended user groups have been developed.

Class B2 products do not provide this kind of support to the user. Even if they have the circumferential buoyant structure in common with the Class B1 products — and thus the entrapment risk if this fit becomes too tight — flotation of the user depends on his ability to hold himself by hands or body inside the very loosely surrounding buoyant structure.

Both classes of products include also adult use. Activities may range from passive floating to actions like wave surfing, tubing, balancing, swinging etc. The devices are linked with the identified risks given in [Table 1](#).

Standardization is aiming for more safety with regard to all foreseeable uses.

Dealing with a partly intentionally immersed human body leads to the question of loads to be applied for appropriate testing. For the purpose of this standard load resulting from the body weight is set with 75 % of the body weight of the heaviest foreseeable or specified user even when in certain circumstances this immersed body weight may be reduced to roughly 10 %. In cases where the devices can be used for sitting on top (e.g. big rings) the maximum body weight out of the stipulated user group is assessed as adequate.

It should be noted that this document is not related to the one and only technically clearly determined product but to a whole diverse product group including two major design principles B1 and B2 as laid down in the classification, see [Clause 4](#), for Class B floating leisure articles.

0.2 Child testing

See [Annex A](#) and ISO 25649-1:2017, Clause 4, as alternative. Use of Class B products includes children from four years of age and above. Some essential requirement ensuring safety in use and in dangerous situations which may occur — e.g. a capsizing — cannot be simulated and verified via the application of forces or other instrumental procedures but only by practical testing involving human test subjects or test dummies which sufficiently represent the envisaged user groups. Children in testing increase the nearness to real life situation but may lead to subjective results. An increased number of test cycles are an appropriate means to get an average result which makes the subjective test more objective. The application of test dummies reduces the nearness to real life situation but increases reproducibility of testing. Costs and expenses are high in the beginning (production costs) but may pay off in long term in comparison to the expense of repeated provision and operation of human test subjects. The worst alternative is to eliminate certain requirements if they cannot be verified for the reason of lacking either test dummies or human test subjects.

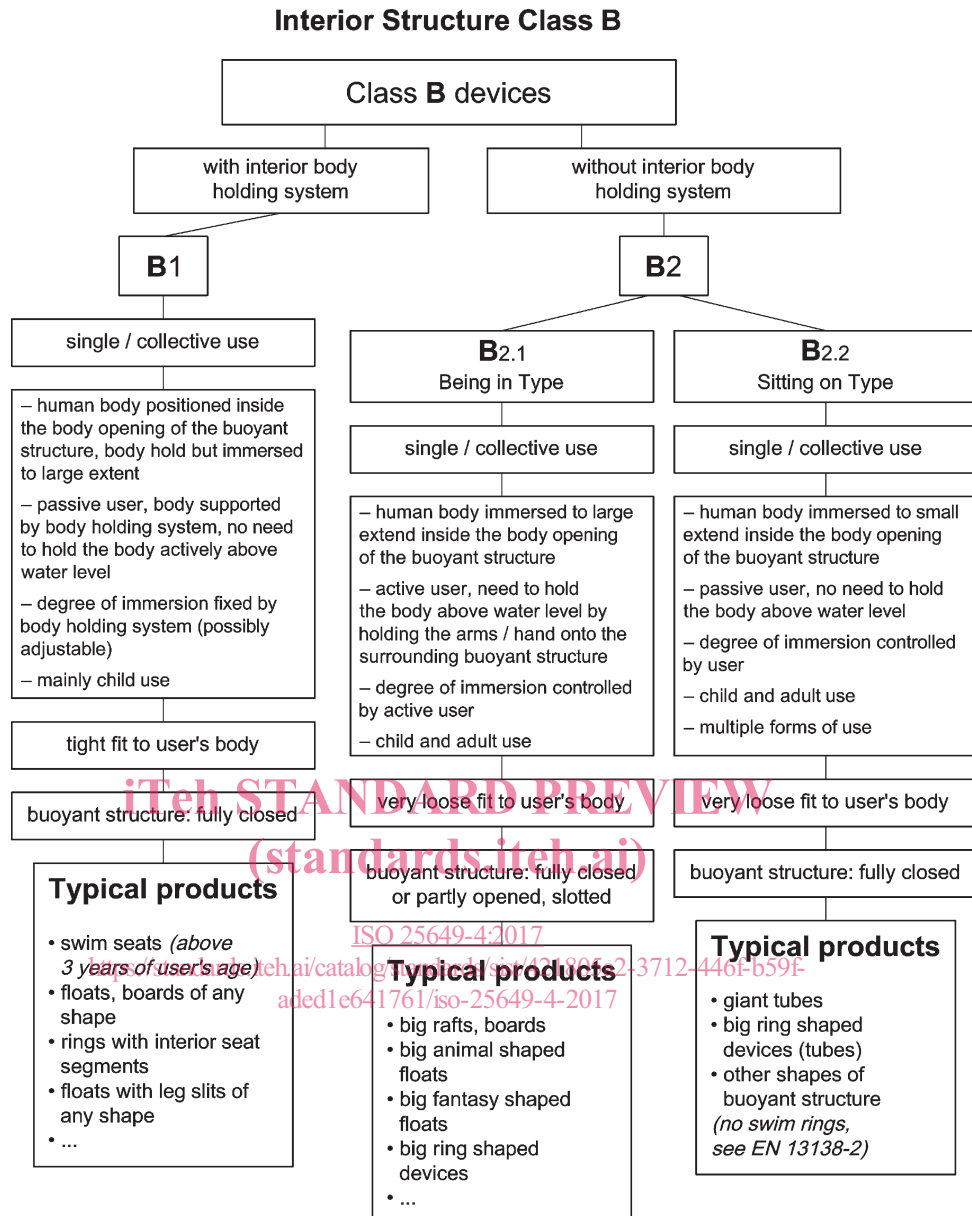
It goes without saying that any involvement of human test subjects and thus in particular child testing is accompanied with all necessary precautions, surveillance and safety measures.

This document refers amongst others to children as test subjects. The anthropometric requirements related to these test subjects are based on children five years and nine years of age with a body height of 126 cm and 149 cm and a body weight of 25 kg/38 kg. Children of 14 years of age and above can be represented by the smallest adult female person representing the fifth percentile of the anthropometric range.

In order to provide in all cases an alternative to child testing the anthropometric data of relevant manikins are specified for optional application in [Annex A](#).

Table 1 — Introductory risk analysis

No.	Typical products	Place of use	Function; range of usage; target/age group	Type of movement/ propulsion	Position of user in regard to the equipment, elevation above water	Predictable misuse	Partial risk related to water environment	Final risk	Protection aims standard/regulation
B (B1, B2)	Floating structures with circumferential buoyancy chambers around user's body, body opening with or without interior body holding system, various body postures	Depending on age group and capability to swim: pool, close to shore, lake, pond	Children; adolescents; large variety with regard to age and use (max. 16 years to 18 years); no infants	Mainly drifting; propulsion only by swimming strokes; third party acting, moving by hand paddling, action in waves for adolescents	In-water position; main parts of body are below surface; no elevation above water level, sitting, kneeling, standing, laying	Dangerous distance from bank/shore; use in currents and/or dangerous offshore winds; use by non-swimmers (B2); capsizing (B1); wrong size allocation (user wedged in device); lack of supervision	Capsizing, entrapment, entanglement; capsizing in combination with entrapment can lead to fatal accidents; drifting away through current or wind	DROWN-ING	Avoidance of entrapment/ entanglement; floating stability; residual buoyancy; warning notes; easy escape in the case of capsizing; adult supervision; suitable sizing system



NOTE 1 Rings and ring shaped tubes dealt with in this document are in no case swim rings as means to learn to swim (see EN 13138-2) but water leisure articles for hanging in or sitting on.

NOTE 2 The minimum length or width is 1,2 m and the corresponding diameter is $\geq 1,2$ m (see EU guidance document No 7,2014-01, on the application of the directive on the safety of toys used in and on the water).

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Floating leisure articles for use on and in the water —

Part 4:

Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for Class B devices

1 Scope

This document specifies safety requirements and test methods related to materials, safety, performance and consumer information for classified floating leisure articles for use on and in the water according to ISO 25649-1.

This document is to be applied with ISO 25649-1 and ISO 25649-2.

This document is applicable for Class B floating leisure articles for use on and in the water according to ISO 25649-1 regardless whether the buoyancy is achieved by inflation or inherent buoyant material.

Class B devices provide a buoyant structure with one or more body openings into which the user is positioned partly immersed.

NOTE 1 Typical products forming Class B (see [Annex B](#)):

- floating rafts with interior body holding system (“swim seats”) mostly in circular or square shape, fantasy shape for playing purposes;
- floating fantasy shaped structures with one or more openings to host a child’s body, with or without body holding system;
- floating with slits or openings to put legs through any shape;
- floating rings with interior seat segments inside the circular body opening.

NOTE 2 Typical places for application:

- pools;
- protected areas of lakes, ponds;
- protected area sea shore (no offshore winds, no currents).

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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.

EN 13138-3:2007, *Buoyant aids for swimming instruction — Part 3: Safety requirements and test methods for swim seats to be worn*

EN 13138-4:2007, *Buoyant aids for swimming instruction — Part 4: Test manikin for in water performance testing of buoyant aids to be worn*

ISO 25649-1, *Floating leisure articles for use on and in the water — Part 1: Classification, materials, general requirements and test methods*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 25649-1 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1 residual buoyancy

provision of remaining buoyancy in case of a defect of any buoyancy chamber

3.2 buoyant swimming device

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

[SOURCE: ISO 12402-1:2005, 3.1]

3.3 device providing static floating stability

product designed in such a way that the user has floating stability without needing their own skills

Note 1 to entry: One or several users can be safely on or in the device even if the weight is not evenly distributed.

Note 2 to entry: In accordance with intended use.

3.4 device to be balanced by the user

product of which the upright floating depends on user's skill and sense to balance it

Note 1 to entry: In accordance with intended use.

3.5 escape

easy and complete separation between the user and the device in case of capsizing of the device or system without hindrance through any part or feature of the floating device

3.6 swim seat

buoyant device intended to introduce the user to the aquatic environment and to build water confidence as a pre-requisite to learning to swim, which provides safety for the user but no guaranteed protection against drowning

Note 1 to entry: Swim seats are learning aids and need not be mistaken with aquatic toys as defined in EN 71-1.

[SOURCE: EN 13138-3:2007, 3.13]

3.7 body holding system

system which is constituted by any means inside the circumferential buoyant structure which supports the users body

Note 1 to entry: The body holding systems enable the user(s) to stay in the partly immersed position without need to hold himself for not slipping through the opening into the water. The body holding system might be designed to allow a sitting, kneeling, standing or lying posture. It might be integrated in the interior opening of the buoyant structure or added as a separable component.

3.8**integral part of the device**

part of the device without which the system or component does not function and can therefore not arbitrarily be used or omitted

3.9**multiple use product**

any product that is intended to be used for more than one purpose (jumping, resting, climbing, etc.)

3.10**inherent buoyant material**

non-crosslinked (closed-cell) foam or other materials enclosed in (a) sealed compartment(s) in the hull which have a specific weight less than fresh water

Note 1 to entry: An inflatable made of inherent buoyant material is a buoyant structure (hull) achieving all or parts of its intended shape and buoyancy from soft foam, hard foam or sealed chambers filled with air, gas or granules.

4 Safety requirements and test methods**4.1 General**

Construction of Class B devices shall be such that it corresponds in terms of design, dimensions, safety, strength and durability for its intended use. The requirements set out in ISO 25649-1 were chosen to ensure compliance with these considerations. Where class B devices are provided in several components, the requirements apply to all components. These components shall be permanently attached if they contribute indispensably to safety and performance.

With regard to general material and design requirements Class B devices shall meet the requirements set out in ISO 25649-1 as far as applicable.

In individual cases, due to the unpredictability, valence and in determinability of existing and future concrete products, a corresponding choice shall be made.

4.2 Sizing**4.2.1 Sizing of B1 devices, fit to user's body and test probes****4.2.1.1 Requirements**

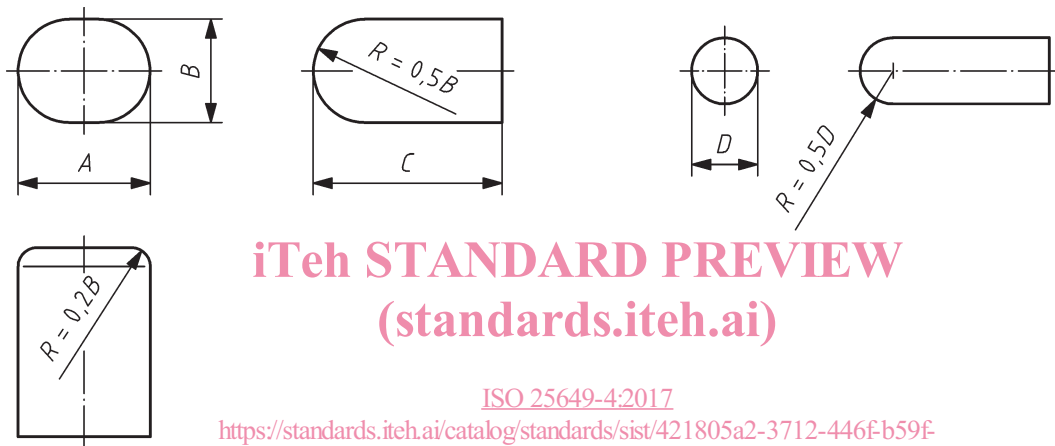
The child's torso and thighs shall be represented by test probes representing the anthropometrically relevant 95th percentile, male body dimensions of the labelled age/weight group. The probes shall slip easily through the body or leg openings respectively (see [Figure 1](#)).

Sizing of class B1 devices shall be in accordance with the range of body weights and age groups as specified in [Table 2](#) (sizing safety information symbols see ISO 25649-2).

Table 2 — Minimum dimensions for interior body openings

Body weight	Age range	Torso probe dimensions	Thigh probe diameter
kg	years	$A^a \times B^a \times C^a$ mm × mm × mm	D^a mm (mm)
22 to 25	4 to 5	260 × 210 × 400	168 ^a (140 ^c)
28 to 34	6 to 8	310 × 240 × 450	192 ^a (160 ^c)
38 to 48	9 to 11	330 × 250 × 500	222 ^a (185 ^c)
54 to 61	12 to 13	350 × 260 × 550	264 ^a (220 ^c)
69 and above	14 and above	The 14 year child user may be represented by the human adult test subject 4 as specified in ISO 25649-1:2017, 5.5.2, Table 2. The same Table 2 can be consulted for test subjects above 14 years of age (test persons 3 and 4).	

^a Anthropometric data + 20 % safety margin (applicable test value).
^c 95th percentile, male, oldest child of age range.



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Key

- A, B, C torso probe dimensions, in millimetres (mm)
- D thigh probe diameter, in millimetres (mm)
- R radius, in millimetres (mm)

Figure 1 — Test probes for torso and thighs

The material of the probe in [Figure 2](#) and [Figure 3](#) shall be a rigid material (for example wood or plastic).

The interior size of the device corresponds to the relevant body weight as specified in [Table 2](#). This size [designated user(s)] shall be labelled on the product and on the packaging. It shall comprise the body weight by applying safety information symbols: “user’s body weight range” and “size designation for interior size”. The safety information symbols: “risk of getting entrapped if size is not appropriate” and “avoid entrapment ensure loose fit” of ISO 25649-2 shall be applied additionally.

4.2.1.2 Test method

Application of torso and leg probes, check whether the required safety information symbols have been applied by visual verification.

NOTE The body opening for users up to 14 years are given in [Table 3](#) only to avoid body entrapment and provide space for action. As there is no longer need for body support they can be seen as minimum dimensions for the biggest user of the range. Adult use can be foreseen for therapeutic use and other applications.