



Lifejacket requirements for Australia



Introduction

Lifejackets are required to be tested and certified for Australia to AS 4758.1:2015-Lifejackets. New Zealand also accepts this standard.

The following information is provided by CertMark International (CMI) as a guide for manufacturers wishing to have CMI certify their Lifejackets to AS 4758.1:2015.

Types of Lifejackets

Lifejackets are classified by application and performance levels as follows:

- **Level 275** This level is intended primarily for offshore use and by people who are carrying significant additional weights (such as tools and equipment) and thus require extra buoyancy. It is also of value to those who are wearing clothing which traps air and which may adversely affect the self-righting capacity of the lifejacket. It is designed to assist the wearer to float in a face-up position with the mouth and nose clear of the surface.
- **Level 150** This level is intended for general and offshore use. It is designed to assist in turning an unconscious person into a face-up position.
- **Level 100** This level is the minimum requirement for coastal use and is intended for general use on water where the shore is in view. It is designed to assist in turning a person into a face-up position.
- **Level 50** This level is intended for use by those who are able swimmers and who are near to bank or shore, or who have help and a means of rescue close at hand. They are not designed to assist in turning the wearer into a face-up position. They require active participation by the wearer.
- **Level 50S** This level is intended for use by those who are able swimmers and who are near to bank or shore, or who have help and a means of rescue close at hand. They are not designed to assist in turning the wearer into a face-up position. They require active participation by the wearer. This lifejacket can be of any colour.

- **Level 25** This level is designed for use by competent swimmers for specific specialist activities such as sporting and competitive situations and who are near to a bank or shore, or who have help and a means of rescue close at hand. They are not designed to assist in turning the wearer into a face-up position. They require active participation by the wearer.
- **Restricted use lifejackets** These are special purpose devices manufactured for groups such as the military, police, rescue and emergency services and the like for specific needs that go beyond the requirements of the recreational wearer. These rely on the specialized skills, knowledge, training and participation of the wearer.

Initial Testing

The testing requirements for Lifejackets are given in AS 4758.2:2015 & AS 4758.3:2015.

Whilst some of this testing is based from the ISO 12402 Lifejacket series of Standards, AS 4758.1:2015, AS 4758.2:2015 & AS 4758.3:2015 have varied and additional requirements for testing, in particular, In Water Performance Testing. As such Lifejackets that have been tested and certified to other standards will need to be retested to the requirements of the AS 4758 series of standards.

The following laboratory in Australia can assist a Supplier or Manufacturer on what testing, samples and sizes are required:



VicLab Pty Ltd, 5/383 Dorset Road, Boronia, 3155, Victoria, Australia

Ph; + 61 3 9761 0766 Fax; +61 3 9761 0477 Email; viclab@bigpond.com Web : www.viclab.com.au

Ongoing Batch Testing

Your Lifejackets will also need to undertake ongoing batch testing for specific tests within AS 4758 series as identified by CMI. These tests will be subject to the type of Lifejacket being certified and they can be conducted by the manufacturer if they have the testing facilities and capabilities approved by CMI.

Lifejacket Markings

Each Lifejacket must be permanently and legibly marked with specific requirements of AS 4758.1:2015 and also that of CMI.

Packaging Markings

The packaging for the Lifejackets is also to be clearly marked to the requirements of AS 4758.1:2015 and that of CMI.

Instructions for use and care

Each Lifejacket must be accompanied by a brochure or label that includes specific information on the use and care as required by AS 4758.1:2015 and that of CMI.

For further information please contact CMI at

office@certmark.org

<https://CertMark.org>

AS 4758.1:2015 Lifejackets