



PFD Fact Sheet

Issue 3, March 2010

Personal Flotation Devices made to Australian Standard 4758 are on track to be recognised nationally by 1 July 2010.

PFDs made to the old standards are still accepted and can be sold and used by boaters after 1 July 2010.

Below are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about the new PFD standard.

1. Which jurisdictions already recognise PFDs made to AS 4758?

Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia already accept PFDs certified to AS 4758.

Tasmania, Western Australia and Northern Territory all plan to accept PFDs certified to AS 4758 by 1 July 2010.

2. What does the new standard cover?

The levels to be introduced will be -

Level 150 - similar to inflatable PFD Type 1 and suitable for offshore use

Level 100 - similar to PFD Type 1 and the minimum requirement for offshore use

Level 50 - similar to PFD Type 2

Level 50 Special Purpose (50S) - to replace PFD Type 3

3. Why do we need a new standard?

Standards Australia carried out a review of the Australian Standard covering PFDs and developed a new standard to more closely align with international standards. It takes into account advances in PFD design and manufacture.

4. When will stocks of PFDs complying with the new standards be available?

Small amounts of PFDs made to the new standard are on some retailers' shelves now. However, it could take another 12 months for full market availability of the new product.

5. Will retailers need to sell only PFDs made to the new standard after 1 July 2010?

No. PFDs made to the old standards can be sold after 1 July 2010. PFDs made to the old standards will still be recognised for many years and a change over date won't be established until after thorough consultation.

If a manufacturer or distributor is not able to supply adequate stocks by the date of legislation, the retailer won't be disadvantaged.

6. What does this decision mean for manufacturers and retailers?

Some manufacturers are already producing or plan to produce PFDs made to AS 4758. Please note that Level 100 and Level 150 PFDs made to other standards cannot be assumed to be compliant with AS 4758.

For further information, contact Terry Ehret or John Henry from the NMSC +61 (02) 9247 2124 or e: tehret@nmsc.gov.au or secretariat@nmsc.gov.au or your state marine safety agency.

The NMSC aims to achieve nationally uniform marine safety practices and is made up of an independent Chair and the CEOs of Australia's Commonwealth, State and Northern Territory marine agencies.

