



MARINE INFORMATION BULLETIN

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES - CUSTOM MADE FOR LARGE PERSONS

Background

The *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2004* requires that personal flotation devices (PFD) comply with Australian Standards. The standards have marking requirements and call for testing procedures that must be met before a PFD can comply with the particular standard. This has led to a situation where custom made PFDs otherwise complying with Australian Standards have not been acceptable for use in Queensland.

To fix this problem, on 18 January 2008 an exemption from the Regulation was gazetted to allow the use of custom made PFDs that do not fully comply with the marking and testing requirements of the standard by large persons who find that normally available PFDs do not fit.

Acceptable PFDs

Under the exemption from the regulation persons of large body mass who find that PFDs normally available do not fit may wear or carry on board PFDs that are custom made but do not fully comply with the standards. Conditions to the exemption require that:

- a) The exempt person wears or carries on board a PFD type 1, type 2 or type 3, as required under the Regulation for the ship and area of operation custom made for their body mass and declared by the manufacturer to be constructed using the same materials and methods of construction as products made to the Australian Standard for the particular PFD type and with flotation appropriate to the PFD type and wearer's body mass;
- b) The exempt person be able to produce for perusal by a shipping inspector a copy of the declaration mentioned in condition a); and
- c) The manufacturer mentioned in condition a) is licensed by a JAS-ANZ accredited compliance certification body to manufacture the particular type of PFD, type 1, type 2 or type 3, in compliance with the appropriate Australian Standard.

Compliance with all the conditions of exemption is necessary for the exemption to operate.

This means that to operate under the exemption you need a declaration from the PFD manufacturer that the custom made PFD type 1, 2 or 3 has been made using the same materials and methods as the manufacturer uses for products made to the Australian Standard for the PFD type and has flotation appropriate to the PFD type and wearer's weight. Also, the manufacturer making the declaration must be licensed by a JAS-ANZ accredited compliance certification body to manufacture the particular type of PFD type 1, type 2 or type 3, in compliance with the appropriate Australian Standard.

The Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) accredits compliance certification bodies such as **SAI-Global**, **BSI Benchmark** and **Global-Mark** to certificate or license manufacturers whose products have fulfilled the specified requirements of a nominated standard.

Persons choosing to operate under the exemption must be able to produce for perusal by a shipping inspector the declaration mentioned above. Paper copies will last for some time when sealed in a clip lock plastic bag of the type available in supermarkets.

Contact information

If you require further information about this Marine Information Bulletin, please contact: 07 3120 7341 or msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au.

Other Marine Information Bulletins covering various topics relating to the safe operation of ships may be obtained from Maritime Safety Queensland's website at www.msq.qld.gov.au and from the following Marine Operations Centres.

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Bundaberg	(07) 4131 8500	Pinkenba	(07) 3860 3500
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