

HARMONIZED LIFE JACKET APPROVALS

ANSI/CA/UL 12402-5:2015 Personal Flotation Devices Buoyancy Aid Safety Requirements

WHY?

Canada and the United States are working together to harmonize to one standard for life jacket approvals, allowing the ability to use and sell the same product in both countries.

Current Life Jacket Approvals are called Legacy Type III for U.S. and Legacy PFD for Canada

New Harmonized Life Jacket Approvals for Canada and U.S. will now be called Level 70 Buoyancy Aids

NEW LABELS/SAFETY LITERATURE

All products with the new, harmonized approval will feature a new label. The inner of the device will include sizing information that is larger and more visible in the neckline along with the utilization of icons to specify certification level, limitations of use, and care instructions. In addition, labeling will be tri-lingual to include English, French, and Spanish languages.

Safety literature attached to the outer of the jacket will include a new harmonized placard. This replaces the current “Think Safe” booklet for the U.S. and the “Wise Choice” pamphlet for Canada. Child and youth products will have an additional Children’s Placard, which is similar to the placard currently used on Children’s item in the U.S.

UPDATES FOR YOUTH AND CHILD

Weight ranges are changed slightly on child and youth items. This creates a small gap between infant and child sizes. If consumers are unsure of which size to choose, please advise them to try on and choose the one that fits the best. As an additional benefit, pillows may be removed from all child and youth products. The Canadian Legacy PFD standard requires these on all child and youth items.

CURRENT				NEW	
USA		CANADA		USA/CANADA	
SIZE	WEIGHT	SIZE	WEIGHT	SIZE	WEIGHT
CHILD	30-50 LBS.	CHILD/ENFANT	14-27 KG	CHILD/ENFANT/NIÑO	33-55 LBS / 15-25 KG
YOUTH	50-90 LBS.	YOUTH/JEUNESSE	27-41 KG	YOUTH/JEUNESSE/JUVEN	55-88 LBS / 25-40 KG
YOUTH SMALL	50-75 LBS.			YOUTH SMALL	55-75 LBS.
YOUTH LARGE	65-90 LBS.			YOUTH LARGE	64-88 LBS.

EXISTING (LEGACY) APPROVED DEVICES

Currently approved Legacy Type III (U.S.) devices will not need to be replaced and will continue to meet U.S. carriage requirements. Devices that are approved by Transport Canada to the CGSB standard are still acceptable for use in Canada. These are all approved for use if they are in good condition. Please read and refer to labeling for device approval specifics. Retailers and manufacturers can continue to sell both old (legacy) and new (harmonized) devices in the U.S. and Canada.

FUTURE APPROVAL FOR HARMONIZATION

Currently, the new, harmonized level 70 standard and labels only impact “legacy” type III life jackets for the U.S. and ‘legacy’ PFD’s for Canada. For U.S. approvals, Type I, Type II, Work Vests, and Inflatable Life Jackets are NOT a part of the current harmonized standard. In Canada, Life Jacket Devices are NOT yet covered either. These are all planned for future development, but a timeline for conversion has not been established.

HARMONIZED PAMPHLET ATTACHED TO OUTER OF LIFE JACKET INSTRUCTS YOU TO LOOK AT THE LIFE JACKET LABEL FOR LIMITATIONS OF USE



**LOOK FOR
SAFETY ALERT
SYMBOL
TO SEE
LIMITATION
ICONS**

DESIGN TYPES

- INHERENT – built-in flotation (always buoyant).
- INFLATABLE – activated gas canister inflates chamber(s) (no buoyancy until time of inflation, requires canister replacement, may be manual, may require secondary action to don).
- HYBRID – combination of flotation and inflation (some immediate buoyancy and supplemental when inflated, may require canister replacement).
- SPECIAL PURPOSE – your activity may require special features (safety color, harness, straps, etc.) and accessories (whistle, lights, reflectors, etc.) for certain conditions.

YOUR DEVICE ONLY WORKS WHEN WORN

MAINTENANCE

- Over time, exposure to sun, salt, fuel, and mildew can damage device.
- Allow to air dry. Inspect and test regularly.

READ, SAVE AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

WARNINGS

- Children should have adult supervision when on or near the water.
- Devices must be fastened correctly and securely.
- Some devices were not designed for certain activities or conditions such as water skiing, towed sports, personal watercraft (PWC) or whitewater paddling.



CHECK LABEL FOR LIMITATIONS OF USE

APPROVAL

- Some devices are approved only when worn.
- Check federal, state/provincial and local requirements for carriage, use and wear.



US Coast Guard



Transport Canada

WEAR IT

For more info on the right choices for yourself, your family and friends...

Visit www.wearitlifejacket.org

LIMITATION ICONS



**NO
WATER
SKIING**



**NO
TOWED
SPORTS**



**NO PWC
PERSONAL
WATERCRAFT**



**NO
WHITewater
PADDLING**

EXAMPLE

LABEL INDICATES THERE ARE LIMITATIONS FOR USE

CHILD / ENFANT / NIÑO
User Weight: / Poids de l'utilisateur: / Peso del usuario: >15-25 kg (>33-55 lbs)

70

   

• Drowning hazard if not worn. • Noyade danger si ce ne est porté. • Peligro de ahogamiento si no se usa.
• Must be fastened and properly adjusted to float the wearer. • Doit être fixé et correctement ajusté - Debe abrocharse y ajustarse apropiadamente para flotar el usuario.

Choose and wear the device which fits you and your activity, visit www.wearitlifejacket.org
Read and Keep the owner's manual and tags for info on wear and care.
Choisir et porter l'appareil qui vous convient et votre activité, visitez www.wearitlifejacket.org
Lire et conserver le manuel et les étiquettes pour les informations l'usure et les soins.
Elija y utilice el chaleco salvavidas que le ajuste a su medida y actividad, usted y su actividad, visite www.wearitlifejacket.org
Lea y conserve el manual de usuario y etiquetas para consultar la información, forma correcta de utilizarlo y recomendaciones para su cuidado

LABEL INDICATES THERE ARE NO LIMITATIONS

**ADULT LARGE
ADULTE GRAND
ADULTO GRANDE**
User Weight: / Poids de l'utilisateur: / Peso del usuario: >41 kg(>90 lbs)
Chest Size: / Tour de poitrine: / Tamaño del pecho: 102-112 cm (40-44 in.)

70

   

**Watersports Vest
Gilet de Sports Nautiques
Deportes Acuáticos Chaleco**

• Drowning hazard if not worn. • Noyade danger si ce ne est porté. • Peligro de ahogamiento si no se usa.
• Must be fastened and properly adjusted to float the wearer. • Doit être fixé et correctement ajusté - Debe abrocharse y ajustarse apropiadamente para flotar el usuario.

Choose and wear the device which fits you and your activity, visit www.wearitlifejacket.org
Read and Keep the owner's manual and tags for info on wear and care.
Choisir et porter l'appareil qui vous convient et votre activité, visitez www.wearitlifejacket.org
Lire et conserver le manuel et les étiquettes pour les informations l'usure et les soins.
Elija y utilice el chaleco salvavidas que le ajuste a su medida y actividad, usted y su actividad, visite www.wearitlifejacket.org
Lea y conserve el manual de usuario y etiquetas para consultar la información, forma correcta de utilizarlo y recomendaciones para su cuidado

**FOR FURTHER EXPLANATION
PLEASE VISIT:
WWW.WEARITLIFEJACKET.ORG**