

Make sure your lifejacket fits!

- Choose a lifejacket for the activity and location your are boating in.
- Try it on before buying.
- Choose a lifejacket for your weight range.
- Fit should be snug but not too tight.
- Use the crotch strap if your lifejacket has one - it stops you sliding out the bottom of the jacket. This is vital with children.
- Practise wearing and test new lifejackets:
 - ✓ Know how to put it on.
 - ✓ Try it out in a controlled environment like a pool.
 - ✓ Get used to it by moving, swimming and floating in it.

See which lifejacket is right for you at:

marinesafety.sa.gov.au/lifejacket-check



Lifejacket checklist

- ✓ Do you have the right lifejacket for the area you will be boating in?
- ✓ Are your lifejackets suited to your activity?
- ✓ Do you have enough lifejackets for everyone that will be on board and are they the right size?
- ✓ Are your lifejackets in good condition and maintained according to the manufacturers instructions?
- ✓ If you are boating at night, do your lifejackets have reflective tape to help others see you better? Consider fitting water activated lights to your lifejackets.

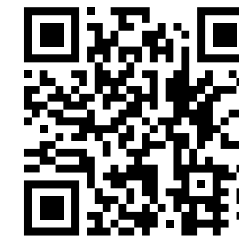
A label for a compliant lifejacket will include the following:

- Manufacturers details
- Certification information (Australian Standards)
- Year of manufacture
- Details on limitations of use
- Device level or type of lifejacket
- How to wear, care for and operate your lifejacket
- Body mass, size and buoyancy information

From 1 January 2025

From 1 January 2025, lifejackets showing the following Australian Standard can no longer be used:

- AS 1512
- AS 2260
- AS 1499



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Which lifejacket do I need?

STAY SAFE ON THE WATER

MR1593 06/22



BE SAFE. WEAR IT.

Lifejacket requirements in South Australia

Lifejackets are an essential item of safety equipment for boaters. Know the regulations around the type of lifejacket needed and when you must wear it.

Special provisions for children

Children who are 12 years old or younger or who weigh less than 40 kg can now wear automatically inflatable lifejackets. These lifejackets are designed to inflate automatically when coming into contact with water. The lifejacket must:

- Be clearly labelled to inflate automatically.
- Have a pull cord (serves as a back-up).
- Be serviced regularly in line with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Be the correct size and properly fitted.

Wearing lifejackets on motor boats that are 4.8 metres or less in length:

Everyone on board must wear a lifejacket at all times when underway or at anchor.

- The lifejacket worn must be in line with lifejacket wear requirements.
- The lifejacket worn must be suitable for your activity.

Wearing lifejackets on boats 4.8 metres to 12 metres in length (with or without an engine)

When in an open area of a vessel, the following lifejacket wear requirements apply when the vessel is underway or at anchor:

- Children who are 12 years old or younger must wear a lifejacket at all times (lifejacket level depends on where you are operating).

In circumstances of heightened risk, all occupants must wear a lifejacket level 50 or 50S or higher in semi-protected or protected waters and must wear a lifejacket level 100 or higher in unprotected waters.

Circumstances of heightened risk are as follows:

- When operating alone.
- When operating **only** accompanied by a child, or children, who is 12 years old or younger.
- When operating after sunset or before sunrise.
- When the boat is disabled.
- When crossing a coastal bar.
- At times of restricted visibility.
- When in an area subject to gale, storm force, hurricane force wind, severe thunderstorm or severe weather warning issued by the Bureau of Meteorology.

South Australian waters

It is important that each person on board has an approved lifejacket suitable for the activity and area that they intend to boat in. If unsure go to marinesafety.sa.gov.au.

The waters in South Australia are divided into 3 categories, which influence the type of lifejacket required – dependent on the activity.

PROTECTED WATERS

Inland waters including the Murray River (Does not include Lakes Alexandrina and Albert).

- Boating - Lifejacket level 50S or higher.
- Personal water craft (PWC) commonly referred to as Jet skis - Lifejacket level 50 or 50S only.
- Water skiing - Lifejacket level 50 or 50S.
- Stand up paddleboard, surf-ski, kayak, canoe, surfboard, sailboard or kiteboard - Lifejacket level 50S or higher.

SEMI PROTECTED WATERS

Coastal waters no more than 2 nautical miles (approximately 3.7 km) from the coast or the banks of Lakes Alexandrina and Albert (includes tidal waterways such as the Port Adelaide River and the Coorong).

- Boating – Lifejacket level 50S or higher (must be equipped with lifejacket level 100 or higher for all persons on board).
- PWC – Lifejacket level 50 or 50S only.
- Canoe or kayak – Lifejacket level 50S or higher.
- Sailboard, Kiteboard
 - ~ < 400 metres from shore – Lifejacket level 50S or higher.
 - ~ > 400 metres from shore – Lifejacket level 100 or higher.

UNPROTECTED WATERS

Coastal Waters more than 2 nautical miles (approximately 3.7 km) from the shore and from the banks of Lakes Alexandrina and Albert.

- Boating – Lifejacket level 100 or higher.
- Canoe, kayak, rowboat – Lifejacket level 50 or higher with whistle attached.

Level 150 or higher

- Provides greater buoyancy support when a higher level of performance is needed.
- May be inflatable and if so must be serviced every 12 months or in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Designed to keep you in a 'face up' floating position.
- Suitable for general boating in all waters.
- Not to be worn on personal watercraft (PWC).



Level 100

- Designed to keep you in a safe 'face up' floating position.
- They are the minimum requirement to be carried in semi-protected and unprotected waters. Users can wear lifejacket level 50 and 50S depending on their age and where they are operating.
- They can be worn for general boating in all waters.
- Not to be worn on personal watercraft (PWC).



Level 50

- Less buoyancy than a lifejacket level 100 and will not rotate you to a 'face up' floating position.
- Normally used for sailing, kayaking, canoeing, wind surfing and on personal watercraft (PWC).



Level 50S

- Similar buoyancy characteristics to the lifejacket level 50 but is manufactured in a wider range of colours.
- Favoured by waterskiers, wakeboarders, kayakers and canoeists.
- They may also be available as a built in garment (eg waterskiing wet suit).

