



AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE FEDERATION

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EQUIPMENT STANDARD No. APF071206-L

Issued 22 November 2019

(Replaces APF ES071206- dated 12 February 2019)

SUBJECT: PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE (PFD)

STATUS: MANDATORY

BACKGROUND:

Under the Civil Aviation Regulations, CASA may give directions with respect to the provision in Australian aircraft of such emergency systems and equipment, and such life-saving equipment, as CASA considers necessary to safeguard the aircraft and persons on board the aircraft. Part 105 (Parachuting from Aircraft) Manual of Standards 2023 goes on to clarify the standards approved by CASA for life jackets and flotation devices required to be carried.

Apart from the need to be suitable for carriage in aircraft, there are additional factors to consider, when the person on board is a parachutist, and the PFD needs to be worn in freefall and activated when it is deemed safe to do so. A PFD approved by CASA may not necessarily function as intended and may in fact introduce an unnecessary risk to aviation safety. Accordingly, the APF has established this Equipment Standard for PFDs to be used where the person carried on board the aircraft is a parachutist.

APF POLICY:

A PFD which is manufactured to one of the following standards is acceptable:

- Australian Standard AS 4758 – Level 100, Level 150 and Level 275
- Australian Standard AS 1512 - Type 1*
- Australian Standard AS 1499 – Type 2*
- CASA Technical Standard Order ATSO-1C13 Life Preservers
- FAA Technical Standard Order TSO-13 revision (b) through to (f)
- FAA TSO-C72 revisions (a) through to (c)
- A specification approved by the CAA of the United Kingdom, or
- A specification approved by CASA.

**Australian Standard AS 1512 – Type 1, and Australian Standard AS 1499 – Type 2 have been superseded by Australian Standard AS 4758. Lifejackets that meet these previous standards are still acceptable to use if they are in good condition.*

APF POLICY ON VARIATION TO PFD MANUFACTURING STANDARD:

A PFD manufactured to one of the CASA-approved standards listed in AWB 23-013 may not be suitable for a person carried on board an aircraft that is intending to make a parachute descent. Accordingly, APF permits such equipment to be modified by an APF Rigger, or equivalent, to the extent necessary to make it suitable for parachuting.

It is acknowledged and accepted that tampering with an approved PFD invalidates the manufacturer's approval. None-the-less, alteration to the design is permitted by APF provided it is only to the extent necessary for its safe use where the person carried on board the aircraft is a parachutist.

APF POLICY SCOPE OF VARIATIONS PERMITTED:

Aviation Life Jackets are often delivered in a sealed plastic bag and intended for removal only when about to be used. Such articles may be removed from their packaging, fixed to and stowed into a pouch to be worn on the parachutist's waist - in conjunction with a parachute - so that one does not interfere with the operation of the other.

CO2 bottles may be secured with the use of thread locking compound. Refer to Appendix A (below) for instructions.

The PFD assembly must have an identification label stating that it complies with ES APF071206 (K).

The seawater activated light and whistle, where fitted, may be removed when used in daylight-only parachute operations.

Removal of the CO² bottle is not permitted.

APF POLICY ON MAINTENANCE:

If the PFD is unaltered then, the manufacturer's instructions for maintenance, if available, should be followed.

If the PFD has been altered and / or the manufacturer's maintenance instructions are not available, then the following procedures should be followed:

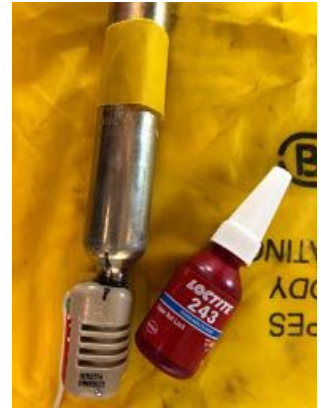
1. Test every 12 months to establish the PFD is capable of providing adequate buoyancy by:
 - (a) For those with solid foam buoyancy – carry out a physical inspection to determine that the buoyancy material provides adequate flotation,
 - (b) For those which require inflation – fill the device with air using the oral inflation tube and leave 24 hours to check for leaks. Evacuate the air afterwards by depressing the valve in the oral inflation tube.
2. In either type, if the device fails the buoyancy test, it must be repaired and retested, or discarded.
3. In the absence of the manufacturer's instructions, 12-month testing may be carried out by an APF Rigger or Packer A.
4. A PFD, that after testing, is found to be serviceable, shall be certified as safe for return to service for a further 12 months. If the PFD has a mandatory retirement date, a 12-month service cannot extend beyond the article's placarded retirement date. The record of PFD servicing may take the form of a separate record card, or by indelibly marking the device itself with the date of the next test, or retirement, is due.

COMPLIANCE DATE: 22 November 2019
AUTHORITY: Safety & Training Manager
DISTRIBUTION: Posted on APF Website as Equipment Standard

APPENDIX A

Instructions

- Remove the bottle from the inflation device and clean all threads thoroughly to remove oil or dirt.
- Shake the Loctite well, the ingredients tend to separate easily. It should come out of the nozzle as more paste than runny liquid.



Pic 1

- Apply a small amount to the bottle threads. (Pic 2)
- Applying to the internal threads on the inflation device is not advisable as the area at the end of the bottle where the firing pin is located must remain clean and free of excess Loctite.
- Screw the bottle in and allow to cure for 24 hours



Pic 2