Self check your inflatable lifejackets

Inflatable lifejackets are certainly very convenient but remember to be diligent with your checks and undertake regular servicing. Self checking a lifejacket can be done at any time to ensure the jacket is functioning properly.

**STEP 1**
Check for visible signs of wear and damage. Ensure all fastenings and buckles are in good working order.

**STEP 2**
Following the manufacturer’s instructions, reveal the inflation system and oral inflation tube. Inflate the bladder using the oral tube and leave overnight in a room with a constant temperature. If the bladder loses pressure, immediately take the jacket to an accredited service agent for further tests. Do not attempt to repair the jacket yourself.

**STEP 3**
Use the cap attached to the oral inflation tube to deflate the bladder. Invert the cap and press down on the valve at the top of the oral tube. Do not insert other objects into top of tube as they may damage the valve. Roll or press jacket to deflate fully.

**STEP 4**
Remove CO₂ cylinder and inspect. The cylinder should be intact with no rust or corrosion. Weigh cylinder on kitchen or letter scales, ensure weight corresponds to the minimum gross weight engraved on cylinder +/- 2g. If the cylinder is rusted, corroded, has been pierced or is not the correct weight it should be replaced immediately. On auto inflation jackets also ensure the auto components are armed and in date. Refit the cylinder to inflation system, tightening it by hand until firm. Do not over tighten.

**STEP 5**
Record the date of maintenance on the service label of the lifejacket.

**STEP 6**
Repack jacket as per manufacturer’s instructions. Ensure manual inflation toggle is accessible and unlikely to be caught when being worn.
The rules
A lifejacket must be carried for each person (over the age of 12 months) on board a recreational vessel when operating in unprotected waters.

Unprotected waters are WA’s navigable waters that are not contained:
- in a lake;
- in a river;
- in an estuary; or
- by any breakwater.

Note: This does not include the waters of Cambridge Gulf or Lake Argyle.

When to wear a lifejacket
You will enhance your safety if you wear a lifejacket at all times, or at least:
- at the first sign of bad weather;
- between sunset and sunrise or during restricted visibility;
- when operating in unfamiliar waters;
- when operating with a following sea;
- when boating alone (this is especially recommended);
- at all times on children under 10 years;
- if you are a poor swimmer; or
- on medication that may affect your balance.

Types of lifejackets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lifejacket</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>PFD</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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| **APPROVED** for use in unprotected waters
| Type 1
| AS 4758 – Level 100
| *Level 275*
| *Level 150*
| *Level 100* or
| *ISO 12402* or
| *AS 1512* |
| **Level 100 and higher lifejackets** provide a high level of buoyancy and are:
- Approved for use in unprotected waters.
- Fitted with head and neck support.
- Designed to keep you in a face up floating position.
- Manufactured using high-visibility colours.
- Suitable for offshore and general boating in all waters.

| Type 2
| AS 4758 – Level 50
| *Level 90*
| *ISO 12402* or
| *AS 1499* |
| **NOT APPROVED** for general use in unprotected waters
| Level 50 lifejackets have a lower level of buoyancy than the Level 100 and higher lifejackets and are:
- Not approved for general use in unprotected waters.
- Not fitted with head and neck support.
- Not designed to keep you in a face up floating position.
- Manufactured using high-visibility colours.
- Normally used for sailing, kayaking, canoeing, windsurfing and on personal water craft.

| Type 3
| AS 4758 – Level 50S
| *Level 90*
| *ISO 12402* or
| *AS 2260* |
| **Level 50S lifejackets** have similar buoyancy to the Level 50 lifejackets and are:
- Not approved for general use in unprotected waters.
- Not fitted with head and neck support.
- Not designed to keep you in a face up floating position.
- Not manufactured using high-visibility colours.
- Favored by waterskiers, wakeboarders, kayakers and canoeists where comfort and style are important.
- Available as a built-in garment (eg water skiing wet suit).

*general use in unprotected waters includes all vessels except for: PWCs operating within 400m of the shore, paddlecraft, surfboards and kayakers.*

Contact details
Department of Transport
Email: marine.safety@transport.wa.gov.au
Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine
Marine Safety Hotline: 13 11 56

The information contained in this publication is provided in good faith and believed to be accurate at time of publication. The State shall in no way be liable for any loss sustained or incurred by anyone relying on the information.

For further information go to www.transport.wa.gov.au/lifejackets or scan the QR code.

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