

Time:

## **Personal Protection Equipment**

*Personal Floatation Devices (PFD's)*

### **Key Concepts:**

#### **Main Teaching points**

##### **a) Discuss the difference between PFD's and lifejackets.**

Lifejackets have a turning capability. They will turn a person in the water face up with their head out of the water, whether that person is conscious or not. PFDs will keep the person afloat only; they have a very limited turning capability

##### **b) Discuss the requirements for PFD's in SVR.**

- Boaters must be aware that he/she must carry a Canadian approved PFD or lifejacket for each person on board,
- Must be of appropriate size, and
- Must be in good working condition
- PFD's for infants weighing less than 9kg and for persons whose chest size exceeds 140cm need not be of appropriate size.*

##### **c) Discuss the requirements for an inflatable PFD's :**

- worn while in a open boat,
- worn while on deck or in the cockpit or be readily available to persons below the deck of a vessel with cabins.
- not approved for person weighing less than 36.3kg or by persons less than 16 years of age.
- not approved for use on PWC and inflatable PFD's fitted with automatic inflators are not permitted.

##### **d) Examination Criteria: Regular Personal Flotation Device is approved when:**

- The stamp (approval label) that says the device is approved by the Department of Transport Canada (CAN.DOT), or the Canadian Coast Guard, Department of Fisheries and Oceans is present and not erased;
- Must be one approved PFD of appropriate size per person on board;
- The integrity of the outside envelop is perfect, (no tears in the outside shell) and no trace of rot;
- The seams (stitches) are in good repair;
- The hardware and fasteners (buckles – zipper, if any) are present and in good working order;
- The straps are in good condition;
- The inside material is not crumbled – inside material found at the bottom, leaving large empty spaces within the PFD
- The courtesy check must include every buoyant device on board.

## **Notes**

### **Quick Points**

	<b>Difference between PFD and Lifejacket</b>
	<b>Requirements</b>
	<b>Requirements for Inflatable</b>
	<b>Examination Criteria</b>

### **Handout**

TC Survival in Cold Waters  
TP 13822E

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/MarineSafety/TP/Tp13822/chapter-1.htm>

Hand out or overhead of a sample label (refer to SGB pg47)

### **Instructor notes**

Flotation devices should be cleaned with a mild soap and running water. Strong detergents, gasoline and dry cleaning should never be used on flotation devices.

Dry gear in the open air, not close to heat source.  
Should not be used for fenders

The boater should try out the device in the water to become familiar with its feel and capabilities. Check its buoyancy regularly by wading out until the water is waist deep; bend your knees and see how it floats you

As of April 1, 1999, life-saving cushions are no longer accepted as approved personal flotation devices.

### **References linked to LP**

PCCC Student Manual Pg.38  
Safe Boating Guide Pg.50  
SVR Schedule III

**Rationalization:**

It has been shown that a person's swimming ability in warm water bears no relationship to that in cold water. Common threads in types of drowning... the victims were good swimmers, they were all healthy, often in shallow water and the accidents occurred within feet of safety.

**Suggested Activities:**

<b><i>Method of Evaluation &amp; Condition</i></b>	<b><i>Skill / Knowledge and Standard</i></b>
<b><u>Skill</u></b>	
Each candidate shall pass an exam that includes questions regarding personal protection equipment, or participate in a thorough examination of the required personal protection equipment demonstrating the inspection criteria for each.	Candidates shall participate in an examination of PPE required on vessels <20m – taking into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• approval,</li><li>• size and condition.</li><li>• Colors</li><li>• Grab lines</li></ul> Each candidate shall ID situations where prohibition/exemptions may apply In the case of reboarding devices – must be present if freeboard >.5m , state construction specifications,
<b><u>Knowledge</u></b>	
Each candidate shall pass an exam that includes questions regarding personal protection equipment, or participate in a thorough examination of the required personal protection equipment demonstrating the inspection criteria for each.	Each candidate shall state all compulsory Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) required for vessels under 20 meters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PDF</li><li>• buoyant heaving line</li><li>• Lifebuoy</li><li>• lifting harnesses and appropriate rigging</li></ul> Each candidate shall state significance and difference between PFD & Lifejacket Exemptions for each-- Guidance notes SB guide pg 46.