

## Children's EN 395 personal flotation device

This Marine Information Bulletin supersedes the bulletin of the same title issued in March 2009.

### Background

Marine Safety Queensland has concerns that boat owners and masters are using personal flotation devices (PFD) manufactured to the EN 395 standard as part of their safety equipment requirements.

It has been reported that some supermarkets have been selling children's EN 395 personal flotation devices.

### Requirements

An EN 395 personal flotation device does not satisfy requirements under the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2004* for a ship to be equipped with an appropriate lifejacket or personal flotation device.

However, the Australian personal flotation device standards, AS 1512, AS 1499, AS 2260 and the new standard AS 4758, do not cater for infants under 10 kg body mass.

The safety equipment requirements under the regulation do not specify standards for life jackets and personal flotation devices for persons/passengers less than one year of age. This does not detract from the general safety obligations of owners and masters under the act.

Providing an EN 395 personal flotation device of suitable size for an infant less than one year old may well be a way for a ship's master to meet their general safety obligation under the act.

However, a retailer or wholesaler would be misleading their customers if they did not point out that an EN 395 personal flotation device can not be used for a person aged one year or

older or to meet the obligation to equip a ship with safety equipment under the regulation.

Advice from retailers and wholesalers to customers considering the purchase of a personal flotation device for infants should include that:

- an EN 395 personal flotation device is not suitable safety equipment for a person one year or older
- nappies may affect flotation and should not be used on infants wearing personal flotation devices
- personal flotation devices for children should be fitted to the child and tested in calm, controlled conditions, such as a pool, to ensure face up flotation.

Boat owners and masters carrying or wearing an EN 395 personal flotation device in lieu of an appropriate personal flotation device risk being issued with a Marine Infringement Notice.

### Recommendation

If you have purchased an EN 395 personal flotation device, for use by a person older than one year, from a supermarket or other retail outlet in Queensland you are advised to return the product to the store in question and ask for a refund. You may need to speak with the store manager about the issue.

## Information

Other Marine Information Bulletins containing information related to life jackets and personal flotation devices are available at [www.msq.qld.gov.au/Home/Publications/Marine\\_information\\_bulletins/](http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/Home/Publications/Marine_information_bulletins/).

Look for:

- Lifejackets and personal flotation devices — international standards
- Lifejackets and personal flotation devices — frequently asked questions

For further information about this Marine Information Bulletin, contact (07) 3120 7341 or [msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au](mailto:msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au).

Other Marine Information Bulletins covering various topics relating to the safe operation of ships may be obtained from Maritime Safety Queensland's website at [www.msq.qld.gov.au](http://www.msq.qld.gov.au) and from the following Maritime Safety Queensland regional offices.

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