

CHOOSE THE RIGHT LIFE JACKET

REQUIREMENTS

- U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable life jacket on board for every person on the boat.
- Boating safety advocates recommend all boaters and passengers wear a life jacket at all times while boating.

READ THE LABEL

- All life jackets that are USCG approved have an approval number. Look for it to ensure your life jacket meets the law requirements and is safe.
- You may see a new label on the inside of new life jackets with a performance level icon. These are approved for use in the U.S. and Canada, whereas devices with the old labels continue to be approved in one country or the other, not both.
- Life jackets you may already own may have the old “type” life jacket label (Type I–Type V).
- The new label **DOES NOT** make obsolete life jackets with the old label (you can continue to use your life jacket as long as it is in good condition and appropriate for the activity).

RIGHT LIFE JACKET

- **WEAR IT**—The best life jacket is one you will wear.
- **ACTIVITY**—It should be appropriate for the recreational water activity.
- **FIT**—A snug fit is a proper fit. All straps, buckles, and zippers should be secure.
- **CONDITION**—Life jackets with a tear, broken pieces, or buoyancy loss should be disposed.



NEW LIFE JACKET LABEL

ADULT UNIVERSAL

User Weight: >40 kg (>88 lbs)
Chest Size: 76-132 cm (30-52 in.)

PERFORMANCE LEVEL

Measured in **newtons**.

- Lower level number offers more mobility, comfort, and style with good flotation, and intended for near shore (calm water) activities.
- Higher level number offers greater flotation, turning, and stability in the water, and for offshore activities (greater time to rescue).
- There are areas where you may be boating near shore when rescue is hours away, and a higher level is needed.
- Be honest about your swimming ability. Poor swimmers may need a higher level to stay upright and easily tread water.



NEAR SHORE (CALM)

OFFSHORE (WAVES)

INCREASING TIME TO RESCUE

WARNINGS

Some life jackets are **NOT APPROVED** for:



Water skiing



Tubing



Personal watercraft or wakeboarding



White water paddling



Life jacket will turn an unconscious wearer face up—test before use.



Life jacket will not turn an unconscious wearer face up.

USCG Approved 160.064/XXXX/X
TC Approved XXXXXXX-X
ANSI/CAN/UL 12402-5

Model: XXXX

Style: XXXX

Lot No. XXXX

USCG APPROVED

Approval conditions state that this device must be worn to be counted as equipment required by vessels meeting Transport Canada or USCG regulations.

**APPROVED
USE IN
U.S. AND
CANADA**



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SafeBoatingCampaign.com