UL 1177

STANDARD FOR SAFETY

Buoyant Vests

UL Standard for Safety for Buoyant Vests, UL 1177

Third Edition, Dated June 19, 2007

Summary of Topics

This revision to UL 1177 dated September 23, 2021 is issued to remove the ANSI designation from the titlepage, as ANSI has been withdrawn from the standard.

Text that has been changed in any manner or impacted by UL's electronic publishing system is marked with a vertical line in the margin.

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Standard for Buoyant Vests

Previous numbered and unnumbered editions of standards covering buoyant cushions have been published since January, 1982.

First Edition – January, 1982
Second Edition – July, 1999

Third Edition

June 19, 2007

This UL Standard for Safety consists of the Third Edition including revisions through September 23, 2021.

Comments or proposals for revisions on any part of the Standard may be submitted to UL at any time. Proposals should be submitted via a Proposal Request in UL's On-Line Collaborative Standards Development System (CSDS) at https://csds.ul.com.

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

PART I – STANDARD KAPOK, FIBROUS GLASS, OR FOAM DEVICES

CONSTRUCTION

MATERIALS

PERFORMANCE

MARKINGS

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

PART II – NONSTANDARD BUOYANT VESTS

CONSTRUCTION

MATERIALS

PERFORMANCE

MARKINGS

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

1 Scope

1.1 These requirements cover marine buoyant vests that use kapok, fibrous glass, or unicellular polyvinyl chloride or polyethylene foam flotation material, and are intended to be used in accordance with the applicable Regulations of the United States Coast Guard (USCG).

1.2 The devices covered by these requirements are intended for USCG approval under 46 CFR 160.047, 160.052, or 160.060.

2 Units of Measurement

2.1 Values stated without parentheses are the requirement. Values in parentheses are explanatory or approximate information.

3 Undated References

3.1 Any undated reference to a code or standard appearing in the requirements of this standard shall be interpreted as referring to the latest edition of that code or standard.

4 Components

4.1 Except as indicated in 4.2, a component of a product covered by this standard shall comply with the requirements for that component.

4.2 A component is not required to comply with a specific requirement that:

a) Involves a feature or characteristic not required in the application of the component in the product covered by this standard, or

b) Is superseded by a requirement in this standard.

4.3 A component shall be used in accordance with its rating established for the intended conditions of use.

4.4 Specific components are incomplete in construction features or restricted in performance capabilities. Such components are intended for use only under limited conditions, such as certain temperatures not exceeding specified limits, and shall be used only under those specific conditions.

4.5 A component part of a buoyant vest shall also comply with the Federal and Mil Spec documents referenced in 46 CFR 160.047, 160.052, and 160.060.

5 General

5.1 A device for which the intended use is indicated as "General Purpose Vest," "Boating Vest," or the like, shall be considered to include "Skiing" unless this is specifically excluded in the marking provided with the device. Statements such as "Hiking" are not considered general use statements.

6 Glossary

6.1 For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions apply.

6.2 BUOYANT INSERT PAD COVERING – The water-protective cover of plastic film that encloses kapok or fibrous glass material.

6.3 BUOYANT MATERIAL – That part of a personal flotation device (PFD) that has inherent buoyancy and that complies with the component requirements for such materials specified in Sections 11 and 24, and the Standard for Components for Personal Flotation Devices, UL 1191.

6.4 BUOYANT PAD INSERTS – A quantity of buoyant material that has been cut or formed for insertion into a buoyant vest.

6.5 CLOSING SEAM – The final structural seam sewn on a device, resulting in the containment of the buoyant material.

6.6 CLOSURES:

a) Primary – Means of securing the device on the body that causes the device to function in its intended manner without employing any other means of fastening the device to the body.

b) Secondary – A closure that, when used alone, does not make the device appear to be donned as intended and is not required to be closed in order to comply with the requirements of this standard.

6.7 DEVICE – Any marine buoyant vest.

6.8 FOAM – Closed-cell foamed polymeric material.

6.9 FREEBOARD – A distance measured perpendicularly from the surface of the water to the lowest point where the wearer's respiration may be impeded.

6.10 LOCK STITCH – A stitch that will not unravel when a force is applied in the direction of the seam to any of the threads forming the stitch.

6.11 NONSTANDARD VEST – A buoyant vest that is assembled according to the manufacturer's drawings rather than according to the drawings in this standard, but determined to be equivalent to a standard vest.

6.12 OPTIONAL CONSTRUCTION – A construction element, the use or nonuse of which does not affect compliance of the device with the performance requirements of this standard.

6.13 REFERENCE VESTS – The standard USCG vests: Model AK-1 (adult); Model CKM-1 (child medium); and Model CKS-2 (child small).

6.14 SEAM – A joint consisting of a sequence or series of stitches uniting two or more pieces of material.

6.15 SERVICEABLE – Acceptable for continued intended use. Exhibits no signs of functional deterioration.

6.16 STANDARD VEST – A buoyant vest assembled according to the drawings in this standard.

6.17 STRUCTURAL SEAM – A seam that serves a functional purpose in the end product as distinguished from a decorative purpose.