



ANSI/CAN/UL 12402-4:2025

**JOINT CANADA-UNITED STATES
NATIONAL STANDARD**

STANDARD FOR SAFETY

Personal Flotation Devices – Part 4: Lifejackets, Performance Level 100 – Safety Requirements

(ISO 12402-4:2006, MOD)



ANSI/UL 12402-4-2025



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UL Standard for Safety for Personal Flotation Devices – Part 4: Lifejackets, Performance Level 100 – Safety Requirements, ANSI/CAN/UL 12402-4

First Edition, Dated July 9, 2020

Summary of Topics

This revision of ANSI/CAN/UL 12402-4 dated February 5, 2025, is issued to correct the website for the Canadian Red Cross in [7DV.2.2\(k\)](#) table. No other changes to requirements have been made to this document.

ANSI/CAN/UL 12402-4 is an adoption with national deviations of ISO Standard for Personal Flotation Devices – Part 4: Lifejackets, Performance Level 100 – Safety Requirements, first edition of ISO 12402-4: 2006-09-01, Technical Corrigendum 2006-12-01, and Amendment 1 dated 2010-06-01.

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

The revised requirements are substantially in accordance with Proposal(s) on this subject dated October 11, 2024.

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ANSI/CAN/UL 12402-4:2025

Standard for Personal Flotation Devices – Part 4: Lifejackets, Performance Level 100 – Safety Requirements

First Edition

July 9, 2020

This ANSI/CAN/UL Safety Standard consists of the First Edition including revisions through February 5, 2025.

The most recent designation of ANSI/UL 12402-4 as an American National Standard (ANSI) occurred on February 5, 2025. ANSI approval for a standard does not include the Cover Page, Transmittal Pages, Title Page, Preface or SCC Foreword.

This standard has been designated as a National Standard of Canada (NSC) on February 5, 2025.

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Preface

This is the First Edition of the ANSI/CAN/UL 12402-4, Standard for Personal Flotation Devices – Part 4: Lifejackets, performance level 100 – Safety requirements, which is a National Adoption of the first edition of ISO 12402-4: 2006-09-01, Technical Corrigendum 2006-12-01, and Amendment 1 dated 2010-06-01.

ULSE is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) as a Standards Development Organization (SDO).

This Standard has been developed in compliance with the requirements of ANSI and SCC for accreditation of a Standards Development Organization.

This ANSI/CAN/UL 12402-4 Standard is under continuous maintenance, whereby each revision is approved in compliance with the requirements of ANSI and SCC for accreditation of a Standards Development Organization. In the event that no revisions are issued for a period of four years from the date of publication, action to revise, reaffirm, or withdraw the standard shall be initiated.

In Canada, there are two official languages, English and French. All safety warnings must be in French and English. Attention is drawn to the possibility that some Canadian authorities may require additional markings and/or installation instructions to be in both official languages.

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This list represents the TC 1123 membership when the final text in this standard was balloted. Since that time, changes in the membership may have occurred.

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This Standard is intended to be used for conformity assessment.

The intended primary application of this standard is stated in its scope. It is important to note that it remains the responsibility of the user of the standard to judge its suitability for this particular application.

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Reasons for Differences from ISO

National Differences from the ISO standard are being added in order to address regulatory and safety situations present in the US and Canada.

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NATIONAL DIFFERENCES

There are six types of National Differences as noted below. The difference type is noted on the first line of the National Difference in the standard. The standard may not include all types of these National Differences. The National Differences in this standard were developed via a binational effort by the Canada / US 12402 Task Group.

DR – These are National Differences based on the **national regulatory requirements**.

D1 – These are National Differences which are based on **basic safety principles and requirements**, elimination of which would compromise safety for consumers and users of products.

D2 – These are National Differences from ISO requirements based on existing **safety practices**. These requirements reflect national safety practices, where empirical substantiation (for the IEC or national requirement) is not available or the text has not been included in the IEC standard.

DC – These are National Differences based on the **component standards** and will not be deleted until a particular component standard is harmonized with the ISO component standard.

DE – These are National Differences based on **editorial comments or corrections**. Some examples of editorial comments or corrections include replacing "lifejacket" with "PPD" or vice versa and correcting paragraph references.

DT – These are National Differences that are the result of pending changes that have been tentatively agreed internationally by ISO TC188/SC1 for the next edition of the standard and therefore are expected outcomes of the second edition of ISO 12402. These changes include both clarifications and substantive changes in requirements and that will be reviewed when the next edition of ISO 12402 is published.

Each national difference contains a description of what the national difference entails. Typically one of the following words is used to explain how the text of the national difference is to be applied to the base ISO text:

Addition / Add – An addition entails adding a complete new numbered clause, subclause, table, figure, or annex. Addition is not meant to include adding select words to the base ISO text.

Modification / Modify – A modification is an altering of the existing base ISO text such as the addition, replacement or deletion of certain words or the replacement of an entire clause, subclause, table, figure, or annex of the base ISO text.

Deletion / Delete – A deletion entails complete deletion of an entire numbered clause, subclause, table, figure, or annex without any replacement text.

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Foreword (ISO)

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 12402-4 was prepared by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 162, *Protective clothing including hand and arm protection and lifejackets*, in collaboration with Technical Committee ISO/TC 188, *Small craft*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

ISO 12402 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Personal flotation devices*:

- *Part 1: Lifejackets for seagoing ships – Safety requirements*
- *Part 2: Lifejackets, performance level 275 – Safety requirements*
- *Part 3: Lifejackets, performance level 150 – Safety requirements*
- *Part 4: Lifejackets, performance level 100 – Safety requirements*
- *Part 5: Buoyancy aids (level 50) – Safety requirements*
- *Part 6: Special purpose lifejackets and buoyancy aids – Safety requirements and additional test methods*
- *Part 7: Materials and components – Safety requirements and test methods*
- *Part 8: Accessories – Safety requirements and test methods*
- *Part 9: Test methods*
- *Part 10: Selection and application of personal flotation devices and other relevant devices*

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Introduction

ISO 12402 has been prepared to give guidance on the design and application of personal flotation devices (hereafter referred to as PFDs) for persons engaged in activities, whether in relation to their work or their leisure, in or near water. PFDs manufactured, selected, and maintained to this standard should give a reasonable assurance of safety from drowning to a person who is immersed in water.

Requirements for lifejackets on large, commercial seagoing ships are regulated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). ISO 12402-1 addresses lifejackets for seagoing ships.

ISO 12402 allows for the buoyancy of a PFD to be provided by a wide variety of materials or designs, some of which may require preparation before entering the water (e.g. inflation of chambers by gas from a cylinder or blown in orally). However, PFDs can be divided into the following two main classes:

- those which provide face up in-water support to the user regardless of physical conditions (lifejackets), and
- those which require the user to make swimming and other postural movements to position the user with the face out of the water (buoyancy aids).

Within these main two classes there are a number of levels of support, types of buoyancy, activation methods for inflatable devices, and auxiliary items (such as location aids), all of which will affect the user's probability of survival. Within the different types of buoyancy allowed, inflatable PFDs either provide full buoyancy without any user intervention other than arming (i.e. PFDs inflated by a fully automatic method) or require the user to initiate the inflation. Hybrid PFDs always provide some buoyancy but rely on the same methods as inflatable PFDs to achieve full buoyancy. With inherently buoyant PFDs, the user only needs to put the PFD on to achieve the performance of its class.

PFDs that do not require intervention (automatically operating PFDs) are suited to activities where persons are likely to enter the water unexpectedly; whereas PFDs requiring intervention (e.g. manually inflated PFDs) are only suitable for use if the user believes there will be sufficient time to produce full buoyancy, or help is close at hand. In every circumstance, the user should ensure that the operation of the PFD is suited to the specific application. The conformity of a PFD to this part of ISO 12402 does not imply that it is suitable for all circumstances. The relative amount of required inspection and maintenance is another factor of paramount importance in the choice and application of specific PFDs.

ISO 12402 is intended to serve as a guide to manufacturers, purchasers, and users of such safety equipment in ensuring that the equipment provides an effective standard of performance in use. Equally essential is the need for the designer to encourage the wearing of the equipment by making it comfortable and attractive for continuous wear on or near water, rather than for it to be stored in a locker for emergency use. Throwable devices and flotation cushions are not covered by this part of ISO 12402. The primary function of a PFD is to support the user in reasonable safety in the water. Within the two classes, alternative attributes make some PFDs better suited to some circumstances than others or make them easier to use and care for than others. Important alternatives allowed by ISO 12402 are the following:

- to provide higher levels of support (levels 100, 150, or 275) that generally float the user with greater water clearance, enabling the user's efforts to be expended in recovery rather than avoiding waves; or to provide lighter or less bulky PFDs (levels 50 or 100);
- to provide the kinds of flotation (inherently buoyant foam, hybrid, and inflatable) that will accommodate the sometimes conflicting needs of reliability and durability, in-water performance, and continuous wear;
- to provide automatically operating (inherently buoyant or automatically inflated) PFDs that float users without any intervention on their part, except in initially donning the PFD (and regular inspection and rearming of inflatable types), or to provide user control of the inflatable PFD's buoyancy by manual and oral operation; and