

Lifejacket Buoyancy Guide

Lifejacket buoyancy is measured in Newtons (N). Ten Newtons equals 1kg of flotation. There are four European standards for lifejackets. All lifejackets must carry the CE mark. Newton ratings are relative to the weight of the intended user. Make sure the lifejacket you choose is the correct size for you and that it has the right Newton rating for your weight. A level 150 lifejacket designed for a child or young adult will not sufficiently float an adult. If you are buying for an adult you must get a level 150 lifejacket designed for an adult's weight.



EN ISO 12402-5
EN 393

EN 393 / EN ISO 12402-5: 50N BUOYANCY AIDS have a buoyancy of no less than 50 Newton for the average adult. This level is intended for use by those who are competent swimmers and who are near to bank or shore, or who have help and a means of rescue close at hand. These garments have minimal bulk, but they are of limited use in disturbed water, and cannot be expected to keep the user safe for a long period of time.



EN ISO 12402-4

EN 395 / EN ISO 12402-4: 100N LIFE JACKETS Have buoyancy of no less than 100 Newton for the average adult. This level is intended for those who may have to wait for rescue, but are likely to do so in sheltered water. The device should not be used in rough conditions.



EN ISO 12402-3
EN 396

EN 396 / EN ISO 12402-3: 150N LIFE JACKETS Have buoyancy of no less than 150 Newton for the average adult. This level is intended for general application or for use with foul weather clothing.



EN ISO 12402-2
EN 399

EN 399 / EN ISO 12402-2: 275N LIFE JACKETS Have buoyancy of no less than 275 Newton for the average adult. This level of lifejacket is intended primarily for offshore use under extreme conditions. It is also of value to those who are wearing clothing which traps air or loads such as tool belts which may adversely affect the self-righting capacity of the lifejacket.