

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFDs) AND LIFE-JACKETS

**PROMISE TO
COME HOME.
WORK SAFE.
WEAR A PFD.**



PFDs and life-jackets save lives. Whatever flotation device you choose it should be the right device for the job and should fit and be comfortable to work in while meeting the following federal requirements:

- Your PFD or life-jacket must provide a minimum buoyancy of 69 Newtons (7.03 kg / 15.5 lb).
- Check that your device has a permanent label or permanent marking showing it meets a standard acceptable to Transport Canada, Canadian Coast Guard or Fisheries and Oceans Canada. To make it easier to spot you if you fall overboard, your flotation device must have white or silver retro-reflective material fitted on the surfaces that normally remain above the water surface.
- If your PFD or life-jacket is not inherently buoyant, it must be automatically inflatable and also have a manual inflation system.
- Wear your auto-inflatable flotation device over your clothing. Do not attach anything to it that might prevent it from inflating when needed.

In New Brunswick, sections 51 (2) and (3) of General Regulation 91-191 cite the same standards for life-jackets and PFDs as the Federal Regulation. Section 51(3) has a requirement similar to the federal regulation, requiring that retro-reflective material is fitted on the surfaces that normally remain above the water.

WHY ARE THERE DIFFERENT REQUIREMENTS FOR DIFFERENT SITUATIONS?

A device with a buoyancy rating of 69 Newtons (7.03 kg / 15.5 lb) is designed to keep a conscious person's head above the water.

A device with a 93 Newtons (9.48 kg / 20.9 lb) buoyancy rating should be used for people who work alone because they are designed to provide enough support for the head, neck and chest to turn an unconscious person face-up in the water (self-righting). For the purposes of water safety, working alone means you are not in eyesight or earshot of another person who is in a position to immediately come to your aid if you fall in the water.



Self-righting

Harness-type PFDs meet the 93 Newtons (9.48 kg / 20.9 lb) requirement and are designed to wear while working.

Keyhole life-jackets meet both the 93 Newtons and Transport Canada requirements used for abandoning ship but are not designed to wear while working.



Wear your PFD or life-jacket – it could save your life!