



Personal flotation devices (PFDs) and lifejackets

You must wear an approved PFD or lifejacket when working on the deck of a fishing vessel or in a seine skiff, as there is a risk of drowning. Whatever flotation device you choose should be the right device for the job and should fit and be comfortable to work in while meeting the following requirements:

- Your PFD or lifejacket must provide a minimum buoyancy of 69 Newtons (15.5 pounds).
- If you are working alone, you must wear a self-righting PFD or lifejacket with a minimum of 93 Newtons (21 pounds) of buoyancy. Working alone means you are not in eyesight or earshot of another worker who is in a position to immediately come to your aid if you fall in the water.
- Check that your device has a permanent label or marking identifying that it meets a standard acceptable to WorkSafeBC.
- To make you easy to spot if you fall overboard, your flotation device must have white or silver retroreflective material fitted on the surfaces that normally remain above the water surface.
- If your PFD or lifejacket is not inherently buoyant, it must be automatically inflatable and must also have a manual inflation system. Manual-only inflatable devices are not acceptable.
- Wear your auto-inflatable flotation device **over** your clothing. Do not attach anything to it that might prevent it from inflating when needed.

Why are there different requirements for different situations?

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

A device with a 93 Newtons (21 pounds) buoyancy rating is required for working alone because these devices are designed to provide enough support for the head, neck, and chest to turn an unconscious person face up in the water (self-righting).

Wear your PFD or lifejacket—it could save your life!

Self-righting



Harness-type PFD meets the 93 Newtons (21 pounds) requirement and is designed to wear while working.



Keyhole lifejacket meets both the 93 Newtons (21 pounds) and Transport Canada carriage requirements used for abandoning ship but is not designed to wear while working.

For more information go to WorkSafeBC.com, OHS Regulation Parts 8 and 24.