

Several characteristics must be taken into account depending on the use of the PFD

Outer lining of the lifejacket:

- Made of fabric to provide increased flexibility to the lifejacket
- Made of PVC for easy cleaning, if required
- Neoprene collar for comfort on the neck
- 3D preformed for optimal positioning on the shoulders

Volume of the chamber:

- 50N (ISO Standard 12402-5) for good swimmers within 2 nautical miles of a shelter
- 100N (ISO Standard 12402-4) for boaters swimming within 6 nautical miles of a shelter
- 150N (ISO 12402-3 standard) for sailing longer than 6 minutes. These lifejackets ensure that the unconscious person can be turned over.
- 275N (ISO 12402-2 standard) for high seas and extreme conditions. These lifejackets ensure that an unconscious person can be turned over on his or her back even when wearing very heavy clothing.

Type of trigger mechanism:

- Manual: the pin trigger is operated manually. The metal trigger pierces the gas cartridge to fill the inflatable chamber. The manual trigger indicator changes status.
- Automatic trigger mechanism: the inflation system is triggered by contact with water, which will dissolve the water-soluble element. A spring pushes the trigger into the gas cartridge to fill the inflatable chamber. The automatic trigger indicator changes status. Several technologies are used for automatic mechanisms:
 - Hydrostatic system (Hammar): prevents untimely triggering which may occur on non-hydrostatic pins that are regularly exposed to ambient humidity (rain, sea water, washing water, etc.). However, it requires immersion in more than 10 cm of water and therefore does not trigger as quickly.
 - Salt tablet system (Halkey Roberts, Secumatic, Kadematic) or the cellulose wadding system (UML).

Options:

- Crotch strap: improves the fit of the inflated equipment on the user.
- Harness loop: allows you to attach a lanyard to the lifejacket and attach it to the ship.

Additional equipment:

- Personal beacon: PLB or AIS, allows man overboard tracking.
- Lanyard: allows you to attach yourself to the boat, preferably at 3 points so that you can move around while still attached.
- Flashlight: increases the visibility of the man overboard, day or night, manual or automatic activation.
- Fluorescein: a colouring powder in a bag which, when diluted in water, facilitates aerial spotting.
- Glow stick: emits light by mixing two chemicals after the stick has been manually bent.

