

# STEP BY STEP GUIDE ON HOW TO SELF CHECK YOUR INFLATABLE LIFEJACKET

## STEP 1

Check for visible signs of wear and damage. Ensure all fastenings and buckles are in good working order.



## STEP 2

Following manufacturer's instructions, reveal the inflation system and oral inflation tube. Inflate bladder using oral tube and leave overnight in a room with constant temperature. If bladder loses pressure, immediately take jacket to an accredited service agent for further tests. Do not attempt to repair jacket yourself.



## STEP 3

Use cap attached to the oral inflation tube to deflate bladder. Invert cap and press down on valve at the top of the oral tube. Do not insert other objects into top of tube as they may damage the valve. Roll or press jacket to deflate fully.



## STEP 4

Remove CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder and inspect. The cylinder should be intact with no rust or corrosion. Weigh cylinder on kitchen or letter scales, ensure weight corresponds to the minimum gross weight engraved on cylinder +/- 2g. If cylinder is rusted, corroded, has been pierced or is not the correct



weight it should be replaced immediately. On auto inflation jackets also ensure auto components are armed and in date. Refit cylinder to inflation system, tightening it by hand until firm. Do not over tighten.

## STEP 5

Repack jacket as per manufacturer's instructions. Ensure manual inflation toggle is accessible and unlikely to be caught when being worn.



While you are reading this flyer, why don't you put a reminder in your mobile phone, computer or calendar to have your inflatable serviced.

## Wear it Inspect it Service it



 **NSW Maritime**

Info line 13 12 56

[www.maritime.nsw.gov.au](http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au)

# DON'T EXPIRE INFLATABLE LIFEJACKETS MUST BE CHECKED AND SERVICED

**YOU'RE THE SKIPPER  
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE!**

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 **NSW Maritime**

## MANY MORE BOATERS ARE NOW WEARING INFLATABLE LIFEJACKETS.



Inflatable lifejackets must work efficiently when they are needed. If not looked after they simply won't work and you, your family and crew are then at serious risk of drowning.

Remember, inflatable lifejackets are not lifejackets until they are inflated and all it takes is a fish hook, or a loose or damaged CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder to prevent them from inflating.

Follow the advice in this guide and treat your inflatable lifejacket with respect. It is a life saving device.

### Have you read the instructions?

There are now many different brands on the market so it is important to choose one that suits your needs. Whether it is a jacket or vest, a yoke or a bum bag style, ensure you read and understand all the instructions. Familiarise yourself with the inflation procedures and the care required for your jacket while not in use.



### How often should I get it serviced?

Your inflatable lifejacket should be serviced according to the manufacturer's recommendations. If the manufacturer has not specified, it must be serviced annually. It should also be self checked regularly between services to ensure it works efficiently.

Servicing will ensure all parts of the jacket including the bladder, inflation mechanism and CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder are checked and in good working order.

### Should I have manual or automatic inflation?

This will depend of what you are most comfortable with and in what circumstances the jacket is being used.

The benefit of an auto inflating jacket is that as soon as the inflation mechanism gets wet the jacket will inflate, whereas a manual jacket's CO<sub>2</sub> inflation is only activated by hand. Poor swimmers may be more comfortable with an auto jacket, but remember a large amount of spray may activate the jacket while on deck.

It is recommended that non swimmers and children under 12 years of age do not wear an inflatable. It is also strongly recommended that inflatable lifejackets not be worn on personal watercraft (PWC).

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*Inflatable lifejacket options include the bum bag style. Whatever style and brand you choose, ensure you are familiar with the inflation procedures and care required.*



### Skipper's responsibilities

If the skipper is providing inflatable lifejackets, all passengers must be made aware of how the jackets work and also their capabilities (as with other safety gear aboard).

If you are providing the jackets, make sure they have been serviced and tested on a regular basis.

### What standards should an inflatable lifejacket meet?

The jacket must meet the Australian Standard or one of a number of other standards. See [www.maritime.nsw.gov.au](http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au) for details of approved standards.

### How should I care for my inflatable?

Store in a dry, well ventilated place, not the damp boat. Rinse in fresh water after use and dry thoroughly prior to storage. Remember, if the jacket is set for auto inflation, remove the auto inflation cartridge prior to rinsing.

Your manufacturer may have specific requirements, so read the instructions on the jacket.

### What if my inflatable has been activated?

Once activated, the CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder is pierced and cannot be used again. On an auto jacket, auto components may also need to be replaced. Cylinders and auto components are available from dealers, but it is wise to have spares on the boat or in the garage just in case.

