

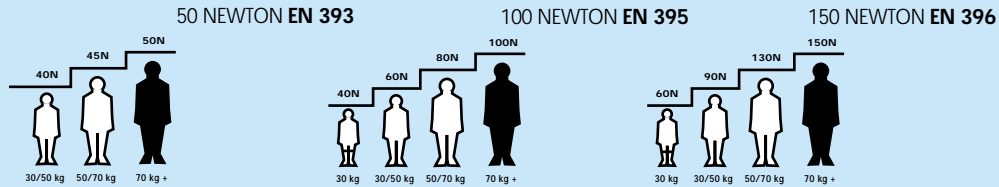
LIFEJACKETS AND BUOYANCY AIDS



Since July 1st, 1995, all lifejackets and buoyancy aids must comply with the European Standards (CEN). You will easily recognise these buoyancy aids and lifejackets thanks to the CE mark of approval printed on the tag attached to the garment.

This CE mark of approval testifies that the buoyancy aid has successfully passed all the tests and that all materials and fabrics used also comply with the European standard.

Some helpful hints



A guide to European standards :

The CEN standard covers 4 levels of minimum buoyancy performance, measured in Newtons : 50, 100, 150 and 275 Newton categories of buoyancy.

Within the CEN standard, the reference is the buoyancy rating for an average wearer weighing 70 kg. This also implies that within a given lifejacket category, smaller sizes will have proportionally less buoyancy.

Notice sewn inside the lifejacket : this is what to look for You have selected a **100 Newton category** lifejacket. The CE mark of approval and no. EN 395 testify that this lifejacket is fully approved.

Within the 100 N category which you selected, it is **your own body weight** (hence the lifejacket size) which determines the actual buoyancy of the garment.

In this example, the wearer weighs between 50 and 70 kg. (it is only in the case of a wearer weighing 70 kg or more that the required buoyancy is 100 N.

TEMPEST 100 Newtons

PLASTIMO

Gilet de sauvetage
Lifejacket
Chaleco salvavidas
Pelastusliivi

Raddningsvast
Rettungsweste
Redningsvest
Giubbetto salvagente

50 / 70 kg

42 / 48
SIZE M

↑ Newtons

95 N

EN 395

PLASTIMO , BP 435 , 56325 Lorient - FRANCE

For a wearer from 50 to 70 kg, within the 100 N category, the buoyancy required by CE standards is 80 N.

Please note that the Plastimo **actual buoyancy** in the example is 95 N.

All Plastimo lifejackets feature more buoyancy than is strictly required by regulation.

Having to comply with the same set of standards as its competitors, Plastimo deliberately manufactures its lifejackets "over and above standards", thereby asserting once again its position as the Safety Leader.

While the basic rule stipulates that, within a given category, smaller sizes will have proportionally less buoyancy, **children's lifejackets are a specific case on their own** : lifejackets designed for wearers below 30 kg body weight systematically belong to the 100 Newton category.

Whether sailing in the open sea or by the shore, the CE standard recognises the absolute necessity to equip very young children with self-righting lifejackets, fitted with reflective material and hoisting loops or handles (see Children's lifejackets, Pages 74 & 75).

For some specific applications, national bodies or federations may recommend a buoyancy rating superior to the standard.

It is the case for example in the Canoe-Kayak buoyancy aids : Plastimo developed 50 N category buoyancy aids, with a buoyancy increased to 70 N.

Standard	EN 393	EN 395	EN 396	EN 399
Buoyancy for a 70 kg wearer	50 Newton 5.1 kg force Buoyancy aid	100 Newton 10.2 kg force Lifejacket	150 Newton 15.3 kg force Lifejacket	275 Newton 28 kg force Lifejacket
Use	Coastal sailing, beach/shore activities	In-shore, coastal sailing	Open sea / blue water sailing	Open sea / blue water sailing Extreme conditions and professional use
Type of vessel	Canoe-kayak/Sailboard Dinghy/Waterski	Sailing and power crafts	Sailing and power crafts	Sailing and power crafts Professional vessels
Specifications of buoyancy aid or lifejacket	Not self-righting. Keeps the airway out of the water, wearer being conscious.	Self-righting : turns wearer safely on his back within 10 seconds.	Self-righting : turns wearer safely on his back within 5 seconds, user wearing regular foul weather gear.	Self-righting : turns wearer safely on his back within 5 seconds, user wearing heavy protective clothing
Features	The lifejacket must support the head all around : on either side of the head and at the back.			
Colour	one or several colours manufacturer's choice	bright colour imposed by regulation area = 100 cm ²	bright colour imposed by regulation area = 300 cm ²	bright colour imposed by regulation area = 300 cm ²
Reflecting material	not required	required	required	required
Whistle	not required	not required	required	required
Grab handle	not required	not required	required	required
Crotch strap	not required	recommended	recommended	recommended