# New Life Jacket Label

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The Coast Guard has initiated a new life jacket labelling system called the Performance Classification System. Working with the Canadian Coast Guard, ICONS have been adopted from the International Standards Organization (ISO) Committee on Life Jackets. The standard is ISO 12402. Buoyancy Aids are numbered at the low number end and Life Jackets are at the high number end.

- Choose the level of buoyancy for the type of activity.
- The number shown is the number of Newtons of flotation.
  - 50 Newtons is about 11.2 pounds of flotation
  - 70 Newtons is about 15.5 pounds of flotation
  - 100 Newtons is about 22.5 pounds of flotation
  - 150 Newtons is about 33.8 pounds of flotation
- The curved arrow indicates that it is likely to turn an unconscious wearer face up in the water. The slash through it indicates it will not turn the wearer face up.

# CHOOSE THE DEVICE YOU WILL WANT TO WEAR

### SIZE & FIT

- · Check label for user weight and chest size.
- · Different body types float differently.
- · A good fit is secure, comfortable, and adjustable.

## **TRY IT ON**

#### **PERFORMANCE**

- Lower number offers greater mobility, comfort, and style with good flotation for most people.
- Higher number offers greater flotation, turning, and stability in the water.









Near Shore

(Calm)

(Waves)

Offshore

Increasing time to rescue





No Turi

Turns Mos

## **CONSIDER YOUR ACTIVITY & ENVIRONMENT**

### **RISK MANAGEMENT \***

- In over 80% of boating fatalities the person was not wearing flotation.
- · Most of these are sudden falls overboard or capsize of a small boat.
- The first moments in the water are critical, even for experienced swimmers.
- Cold water shock causes gasping, loss of muscle control and swim failure.
- Long term immersion in cold water requires thermal protection and flotation position to conserve energy.

**FLOTATION DEVICES SAVE LIVES** 

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