

Parasail Harness

John Collins, USCG Aux SBOS ADSO-PE

The seat of the harness is constructed of a band of high strength material. These harnesses are typically produced in a range of sizes to support children and adults. They are designed to be used with U.S. Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Devices (PFD). The preferred type of PFD for parasailing is a vest style having flotation padding front and back and a number of securing straps. PFDs of the horseshoe style that fit around a passenger's neck and in front should not be used.

Manufacturer harness product information, safety data regarding the fitting of harnesses from industry associations, and the ASTM International Standard Practices for Parasailing F-3099-14

<http://www.astm.org/Standards/F3099.htm>

each indicate that the harness waist strap must fit around the passenger waist and not over the PFD. When fitting a passenger into the harness, its back strap must be above the user's hips. The waist strap must then be made tight and the straps should not be able to move over and below the hips. The strap should be tight to prevent the passenger from sliding out of the harness and keep the person correctly positioned on the seat of the harness.

No additional information has been found to suggest different methods to fit seat type harnesses. The Coast Guard strongly recommends that owners, operators and crewmembers of parasail vessels thoroughly examine:

- The ASTM "Standard Practices for Parasailing F-3099-14 The manufacturer instructions (harnesses, chutes, winch, etc.).
- Instructions and procedures regarding fitting passengers into harnesses to ensure the proper positioning of the harness on the wearer