



Alert No: 23

Date: Updated 8th July 2022

Inflatable Lifejackets and PFDs – Good Practice



There have been a number of instances in the leisure, workboat and commercial sectors where Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) and Lifejackets have not been ready for use once delivered or returned from shore side services. Before bringing new or recently serviced PFD's / Lifejackets into service mariners are advised to:

- Check that each Lifejacket / PFD has the correct certificate (If required)
- Refer to manufacturer's instructions and carry out Daily/ Weekly / Monthly checks
- Ensure that new Lifejackets / PFDs are fit for the use that they were ordered for. Including confirming if they are automatic or manual models.
- Ensure that wearers of lifejackets are trained in their use.

See below links for further guidance

[Health and Safety Executive - Personal buoyancy equipment on inland and inshore waters](#)

[RNLI – How to Choose a Lifejacket and Maintain it](#)

[MCGA – MGN 548 \(Life-Saving Appliances - Inflatable SOLAS Certificated Liferrafts, Lifejackets, Marine Evacuation Systems, and repair of Inflated Rescue Boats - Servicing Requirements and Approved Service Stations\)](#)

[MCGA – MGN553 \(Life-Saving Appliances - Inflatable Non-SOLAS Liferrafts, Lifejackets, Marine Evacuation Systems, Danbuoys and Lifebuoys - Technical Standards and Servicing Requirements\)](#)