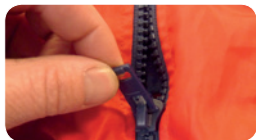
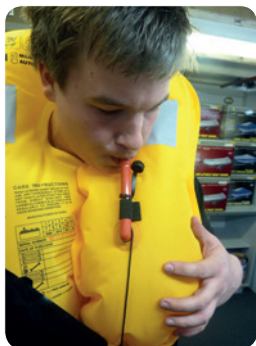


## Step by step guide on how to self check your inflatable PFD



### STEP 1

Check for visible signs of wear and damage. Ensure working items eg. zips, are in good order.



### STEP 2

Carefully reveal the inflation system and oral inflation tube by pulling back velcro on pocket or down sides of jacket. Inflate using oral tube and leave overnight in constant temperature. If bladder loses pressure, immediately take jacket to an accredited service agent. Do not repair it yourself.



### STEP 3

Invert cap and press down on top of oral inflation tube to deflate bladder. Roll or press jacket to deflate fully.



### STEP 4

Remove CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder and inspect for rust or pitting. If cylinder has been pierced at the top, replace it immediately. Replace cylinder and tighten until firm. Do not over tighten as damage to the thread or housing may occur. If an auto inflation jacket, ensure components are in date and that the entire system is clean.

### STEP 5

Repack and ensure manual inflation toggle is accessible and unlikely to be caught when being worn. If a yoke styled jacket, do not repack on existing fold lines as this may weaken material. Ensure all whistle strings and accessories are free of the velcro tape on inflation pocket or sides of yokes and ensure all straps are free of bladder. With vest jackets, ensure bladder has not moved from outer skin.



*An unpierced cylinder*



*A pierced cylinder*



*Check the expiry date on the auto-inflation cartridge*

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

# HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR Inflatable PFD lately?

YOUR LIFE MAY DEPEND ON IT!



## MAST

MARINE and SAFETY TASMANIA  
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In Tasmania, from figures taken from the 2010 boating survey, 71% of people in recreational boats now wear an inflatable PFD compared to 59% in 2007.

These need to work efficiently and more importantly, when they have to. If not looked after they simply won't work and you, your family and crew are then at serious risk of drowning.

Remember, inflatable PFDs are not life jackets 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 PFD with respect. It is a life saving device.



### How often should I get it serviced?

It should be serviced according to the manufacturer's recommendations and also self tested in between to ensure it works efficiently.

Servicing will ensure all parts of the jacket, including the bladder, are checked and are in good working order. The cylinder will be replaced if needed. Again, ensure you self test the jacket in between servicing on a regular basis. This is a legislative requirement.

### Should I have manual or automatic inflation?

This will depend on 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 you hit the water the jacket will inflate, whereas a manual jacket has to be operated by hand. Poor swimmers may be more comfortable with an auto jacket, but remember a large amount of spray may activate the jacket whilst on deck.

It is recommended children under 12 years of age do not wear an inflatable.

### Have you read the instructions?

There are now many different brands on the market so it is important you choose one that suits your needs and uses. Whether it be a jacket, a vest or a yoke, ensure all instructions are read and that you understand them. Become familiar with the inflation procedures and the care required for your jacket whilst not in use.

### Skipper's responsibilities

If the skipper is providing inflatable PFDs the crew must be made aware of how the jacket works and also its 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 PFD meet?

The jacket must meet AS1512 – (PFD 1) or AS 4758.1 – level 150. Whilst 4758.1 is the new standard, MAST will accept AS 1512 for another 10 years (from 1 July 2010). You should check your jacket to ensure either of the two Standards are met.

### How should I care for my Inflatable?

Store in a dry, well ventilated place, not the damp boat. Rinse out thoroughly if used in salt water and dry prior to storage. Remember, if auto inflation, remove the cartridge prior to washing.

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 when pierced cannot be used again. It is the same if an auto jacket is used – a new cartridge will be required. Cylinders and cartridges are available at dealers and it is wise to have spares on the boat or at the shack just in case.



A poorly maintained PFD will reduce your chance of survival