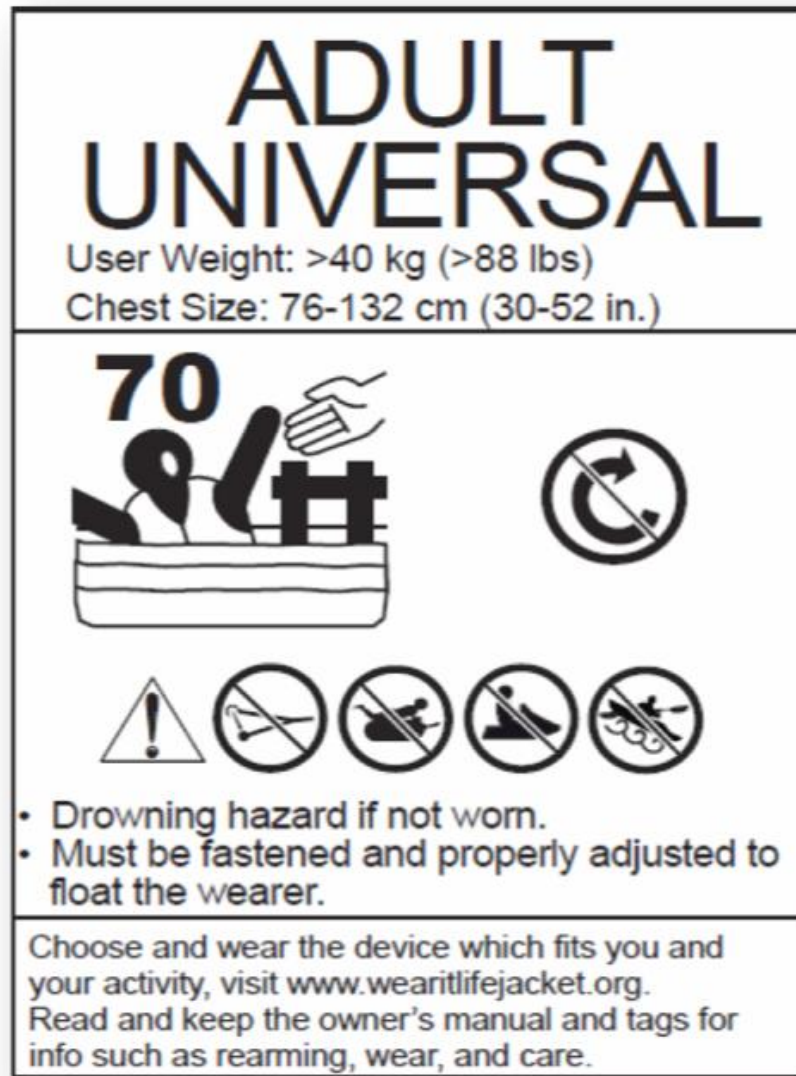


New Life Jacket Labels and Icons – What do they Mean?



If you haven't already seen them, soon you will notice certain life jackets have a new style of label on the inside. Eventually, all new life jackets which are Coast Guard approved and available for purchase in the United States will have these new labels. It is part of an effort to make selecting the right life jacket for you and your intended on-water activity, easier. This new labeling process is also referred to as life jacket label harmonization, which is an effort to make them more universally understood and accepted, especially in Canada and Europe. The goal was to simplify the labels, with less writing and more icons.

Top 10 Features and Goals of the New Life Jacket Labels

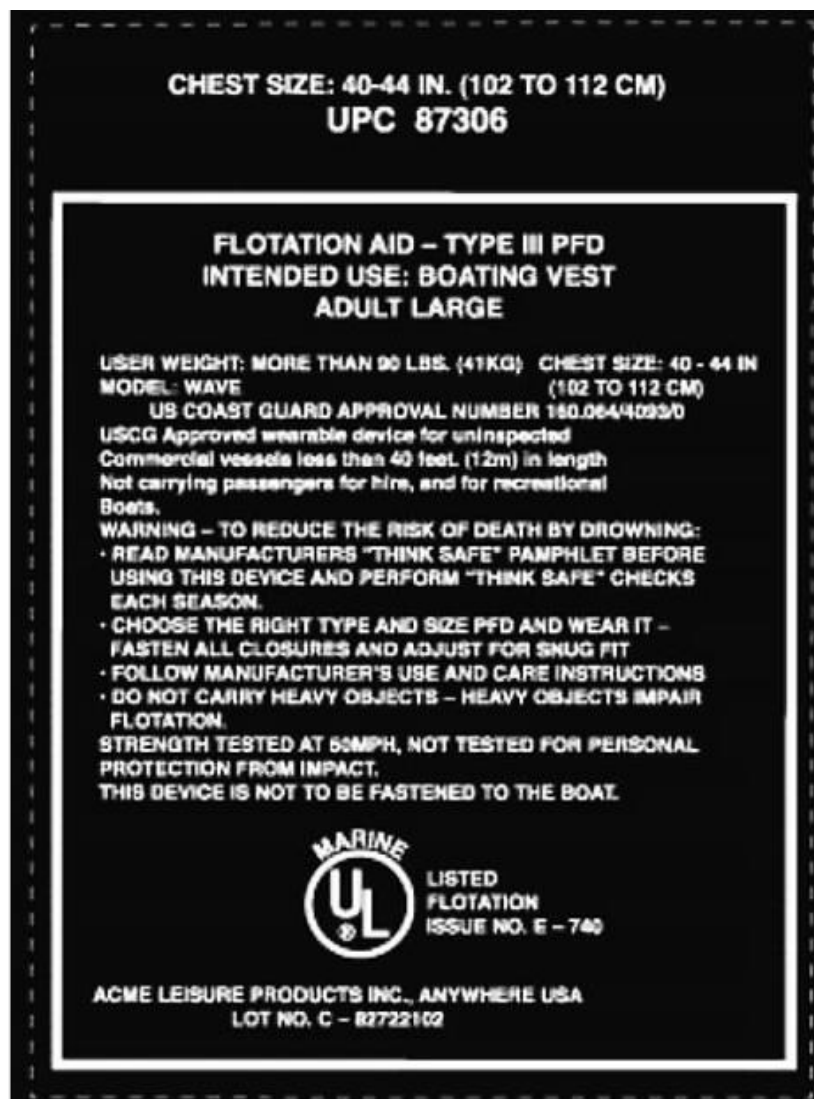
1. Performance summary graphic
2. Activity appropriateness icons
3. Legal requirements specified
4. Reduce language barriers
5. More universal acceptance
6. Harmony with other countries

7. Approval status clearly noted
8. Third party testing verification
9. Manufacturer contact information
10. Care and cleaning instructions

In general, the intent of the new labels is to help users select and care for the appropriate life jacket for the activity in which they are participating. The labels have fewer words more easily understood icons.

What About the Old Labels and Life Jackets?

In 2014, the U.S. Coast Guard removed the “Type” codes from the Code of Federal Regulations. As you may recall, life jackets and personal flotation devices had been referred to as Type I, II, III, IV and V, each of which corresponded to a certain performance or designated use. Going forward, these devices will be referred to as either “throwable” or “wearable” and have a performance category indicated by an icon.



New life jackets that are brought to the market will feature these new labels. However, it will take many years for the older style labels to be completely phased out and you are likely to see both styles in stores, on boats and in use for many years to come. Any life jacket will the old

style label that is still serviceable and in overall good shape, as long as it's Coast Guard approved, will continue to meet regulatory requirements.



Take the Time Understand the New Label

Selecting a proper life jacket and wearing it is the best thing a boater can do to ensure a safe and enjoyable day on the water. A hang tag with important information will accompany each new life jacket. If shopping in a store, be sure you leaf through this hang tag or ask a store associate if you have any questions. If shopping online, read the full product description and reviews to ensure you're purchasing the right life jacket for you.

CHOOSE THE DEVICE YOU WILL WANT TO WEAR

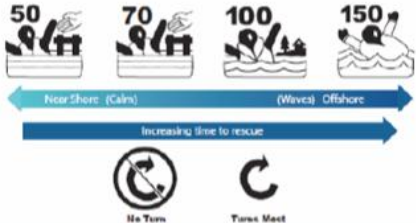
SIZE & FIT

- Check label for user weight and chest size.
- Different body types float differently.
- Try your device on in the water to ensure your airway is clear.
- A good fit is secure, comfortable, and adjustable.

TRY IT ON

PERFORMANCE

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



CONSIDER YOUR ACTIVITY & ENVIRONMENT

WATER SAFETY INFO

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

FLOTATION DEVICES SAVE LIVES

DESIGN TYPES

- **INHERENT** – built-in flotation (always buoyant).
- **INFLATABLE** – activated gas canister inflates chamber(s) (no buoyancy until time of inflation, requires canister replacement, may be manual, may require secondary action to don).
- **HYBRID** – combination of flotation and inflation (some immediate buoyancy and supplemental when inflated, may require canister replacement).
- **SPECIAL PURPOSE** – your activity may require special features (safety color, harness, straps, etc.) and accessories (whistle, lights, reflectors, etc.) for certain conditions.

YOUR DEVICE ONLY WORKS WHEN WORN


MAINTENANCE

- Over time, exposure to sun, salt, fuel, and mildew can damage device.
- Allow to air dry. Inspect and test regularly.
- Inflatables require replacement rearming, repacking and regular servicing.

READ, SAVE AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

WARNINGS

- Children should have adult supervision when on or near the water.
- Devices must be fastened correctly and securely.
- Some devices were not designed for certain activities or conditions such as water skiing, towed sports, personal watercraft (PWC), or whitewater paddling.



CHECK LABEL FOR LIMITATIONS OF USE

APPROVAL

- Some devices are approved only when worn.
- Check federal, state/provincial and local requirements for carriage, use and wear.

US Coast Guard Transport Canada

WEAR IT

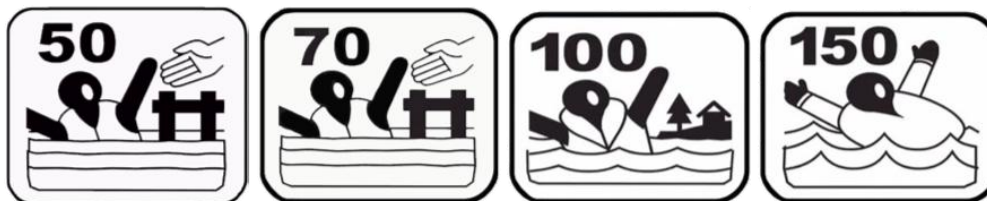
For more info on the right choices for yourself, your family and friends.
Visit www.wearitlifejacket.org

New life jackets feature information in four main categories, usually in separate boxes. At the top of the label, usually toward the neck, is sizing information. The sizing usually specifies a user weight range and chest size range. Proper fit is one of the most important considerations when selecting a life jacket. Additional considerations are found elsewhere on the life jacket label. The placement and location of the information may vary, however, they must be on the life jacket.

What the Labels Tell You

- Performance, Buoyancy and Turning Information
- Warnings, Intended Activity and Limitations of Use
- Manufacturer, Certification and Approval Information
- Care and Maintenance Instructions

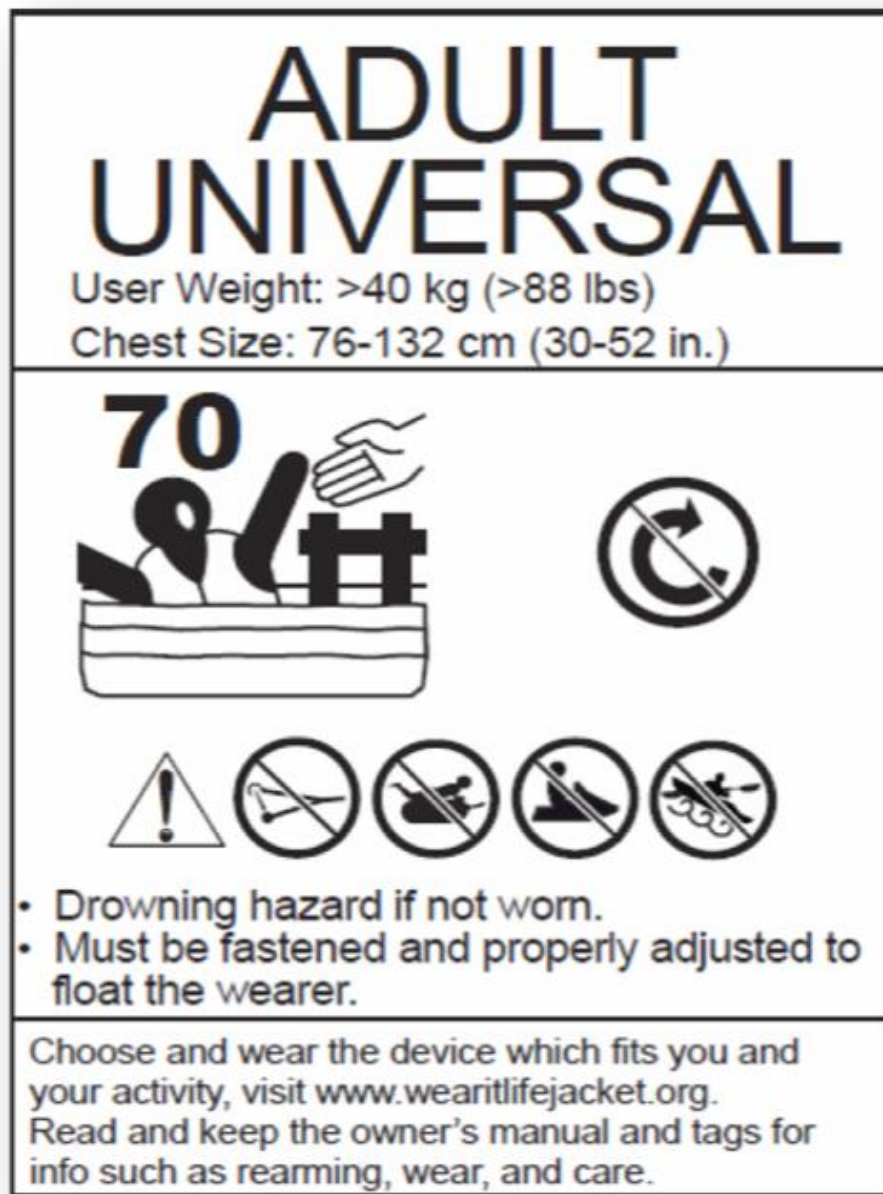
Understanding the New Label and Icons



Performance, Buoyancy and Turning Information – The first thing you’ll notice is a bold-faced number. It could be 50, 70, 100, 150, or 275. This a measurement of gravitational force, which in the case of a life jacket is essentially buoyancy. Simply put, the higher the number, the greater

the floatation. For the time being, most all of the life jackets on the market today in the United States are Level 70 life jackets.

Let's go over an example.

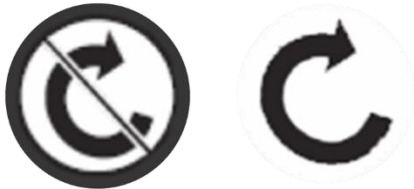


Level 70 Label Decoding - The bold 70 means it's a Level 70 life jacket which provides performance similar to the Type III life jackets previously available. **Life jackets that are rated lower than 70 are not U.S. Coast Guard approved.** This is a metric measurement in Newtons (70N is roughly 15 lbs. of floatation). Newtons are used so that it's consistent with European and Canadian standards.

Also, on a Level 70 life jacket label, you'll see a dock and an extended hand with some slightly wavy lines indicating fairly calm water. This means this life jacket is suitable for near shore use in relatively protected water where rescue is likely to be near at hand. You'll note that the higher

the number on these icons, the farther away the dock and background is, and the bigger the waves are in the icon.

The curved arrow indicates the turning ability of the life jacket. Turning ability is whether or not a life jacket is capable or designed to turn an unconscious person face up, unassisted. A Level 70 life jacket will not turn a person right side up, that's what the curved arrow with a slash through it indicates. If there is no slash, it will turn most wearers face up. The higher the level number the more turning ability.



The next thing you'll notice are warnings and exclusions. In this example, this life jacket is suitable for general boating. However, there are icons with activities and a slash through it. These symbols indicate this life jacket is not suitable for towed sports such as skiing and tubing, nor is it for personal watercraft operation or whitewater paddle sports.



Manufacturer and Certification Information

In the United States and on navigable waterways, a Coast Guard approved life jacket, properly fitted for the intended wearer must be aboard for each occupant. Therefore, knowing your life jacket is approved by the Coast Guard to meet carriage requirements is important. You'll find this information, as well as testing approval numbers and manufacturer information in this section of the label.

Company Name Company Address Company website if available Made in XXXXX	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Lab Certification Mark </div>
USCG Approved 160.064/XXXX/X TC Approved XXXXXX-X ANSI/CAN/UL 12402-5	Certifying Lab identification
Model: XXXX Style: XXXX Lot No. XXXX	
Approval conditions state that this device must be worn to be counted as equipment required by vessels meeting Transport Canada or USCG regulations.	

Care and Maintenance Instructions

A life jacket should be viewed as an investment. You should care for it like you would anything else aboard that depends on proper function, with the exception this one could save your life! Your label and manual that came with your life jacket will have general cleaning and care instructions. These icons inform you to hand wash only, and to not use bleach, dry-cleaners, irons, or dryers in your care routine.



Hand wash.

Hand wash at a water temperature between 30° C and a maximum of 40° C, depending on the particular article. First dissolve a fine detergent in plenty of water. Allow the textiles to float in the solution and agitate carefully. Do not rub, pull and wring out. Then rinse the textiles well, press the superfluous water out carefully and pull into shape. Treat coloured and sensitive pieces rapidly and do not leave lying in the wet state.



Do not bleach.

The triangle with a diagonal cross (St. Andrews Cross) indicates that bleaching is not allowed. Use only bleach-free detergent.



Do not dry-clean.

No professional dry-cleaning allowed. Do not use stain removers which contain solvents.



Do not iron.

Irreversible changes must be expected if an iron is used.



Do not tumble dry

Articles unsuitable for tumble drying.

Life Jackets - Some Things to Know

- There must be at least one life jacket for each person aboard
- Life jackets must be properly sized for each person aboard

- Children under a certain age are required to wear their life jacket (typically under 13 – see state requirements)
- Participants engaged in certain water sports are required to wear a life jacket (typically skiing and personal watercraft operation – see state requirements)
- Life jackets must be approved by the U.S. Coast Guard in order to meet requirements
- These life jackets must be readily accessible and not in an out-of-reach location or in original packaging
- Any boat 16’ and longer (except canoes and kayaks) must carry a throwable PFD
- Throwable devices must be immediately available for use such as in the cockpit or near the helm
- An inflatable life jacket must be properly armed with an unused gas cylinder
- Inflatable life jackets are authorized for use on recreational boats by a person at least 16 years of age