

# Safety of Lifejackets Standards Committee



## Annual Report 2010

### Scope

To advise NSAI on the need for standardization of Personal Flotation Devices (PFD), including Lifejackets and Buoyancy Aids, and to contribute to the content of such standards at national, European and international level.

The scope will be achieved by

- The Committee or its representatives participating in NSAI, CEN and/or ISO standardization work, either by contributing content or by attendance at working meetings;
- Being cognisant of the content and revision of the Personal Protective Equipment Directive and of work to revise it in so far as that may impact upon PFD standards;
- Liaising with other bodies in relation to safety or other PFD related issues as appropriate

## Safety of Lifejackets Standards Committee

### 1. 2010

**Chairman:** Mr Ray Murray, BIM

**Secretary:** Elizabeth O'Ferrall, NSAI

### 2. Membership

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Mr Ray Murray	B.I.M
Mr Liam Kirwan	Irish Water Safety Ass
Mr Colin Dempsey	Irish Water Safety Ass
Mr Michael Kyne	Marine Survey Office Department of Transport
Mr James Newman	Private
Ms Niamh Martin	National Consumer Agency (Correspondence )
Michael Walsh	Health and Safety Authority (resigned Mid 2010)
Mr Tony Wright	Irish Sailing Association
Mr Adrian Towey	Sioen
Mr John Clarence	NMCI (National Maritime College of Ireland
Mr Martin Counihan	Irish Navy / NMCI

### 3. 2010 Highlights

2010 was a very busy year for this Committee with work progressing steadily at European and International level.

- 3.1. Ongoing revision of EN ISO 12402 Parts 1 to Parts 10 Standards on Pfd's :** Work continues at an international level in relation to the revision of these standards. NSAI Safety of Lifejackets Standards Committee participates both by the submission of comments on the EN ISO 12402 suite of standards as well as attending the meetings at CEN/ISO level where possible.
- 3.2. Participation on Task Force groups established at CEN /ISO level:** A task group was formed to deal with the issues around the retention of the personal flotation devices and the possible use of a holding down device (crotch strap). Ireland agreed to participate on this work as it has been raised a number of times at national level. The National committee submitted a paper on this prior to the CEN /ISO meeting in May 2010 for discussion.
- 3.3. Participation on Task groups established at CEN /ISO level – Classification and Performance Levels:** The NSAI Safety of Lifejackets Standards Committee ,represented by Mr Ray Murray and Ms Elizabeth O'Ferrall at CEN /ISO level , joined this working group during the meeting in Berlin 2010. The work of this task group was to standardise the text in the 10 parts of EN ISO 12402 in relation to classification and performance which will assist the user to determine which is the most suitable personal flotation device to purchase and is suitable for its intended use. A submission was made by the Safety of Lifejackets Standards Committee in December 2010.
- 3.4. Participation on Task groups established at CEN /ISO level – ReArming and Repacking Task Group:** The NSAI Safety of Lifejackets Standards Committee , represented by Mr Ray Murray and Ms Elizabeth O'Ferrall at CEN /ISO level , joined this working group during the meeting in Berlin 2010. The work of this task group was to provide requirements in the appropriate parts of EN ISO 12402 and test requirements for EN ISO 12402 Part 9.. Mr Ray Murray and Ms Elizabeth O'Ferrall attended a meeting of a subgroup of this Task Group in the Fleetwood, UK in November to develop text. A joint submission with the UK was made in December 2010.
- 3.5. Submission to the European Commission via the PPE Directive Working Group.** A joint submission was made by the Health and Safety Authority and NSAI in relation to personal flotation devices in April 2010 to clarify the use of withdrawn harmonised standards as a means of meeting the essential requirements of Annex II of the PPE Directive. This paper was present both at the PPE ADCO and WG group and resulted in a lot of discussion. The Commission undertook to evaluate the standards to determine if the new standards gave a higher level of protection than the withdrawn standards. At a further meeting of the PPE Working Group in November 2011 the Commission presented their findings on this issue. Further communication was received from the Convenor of CEN TC162/WG6 in relation to this matter. In January 2011, the Vertical Group of Notified Bodies (Testhouses) discussed this matter.

'PFD's which have previously been tested and certified under the old EN Standards can continue to be sold under the original certification for as long as the certificate is valid and as long as there are no structural changes made to the product. If the manufacturer wishes to make a structural change the product must be retested in accordance with the new ISO 12402 suite of standards.

If a product tested under CE has a certificate with an expiry date, the certificate will not be renewed under the EN standards as these are withdrawn and can therefore no longer be seen as conformity to the Directive. If the Manufacturer wishes to re-certificate the product it must be retested to the new ISO 12402 suite of standards. There will be no 'inherited certification renewal' just because the product has been on the market for a number of years. All new products must be tested in accordance with ISO 12402.'

Test Houses should encourage the update of existing EN products to be retested in accordance with ISO 12402 although this is not mandatory.

## **4. Committee Work**

A number of meetings were held throughout the year .

The work of the committee is to participate and make submissions to the work of CEN TC162/WG6 and ISO TDC188/SC1. The work completed in 2010 is outlined in 3 above.