SCHEDULE

COMPULSORY SPECIFICATION FOR PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

1 SCOPE

This specification covers the safety requirements for Personal Flotation Devices. It is applicable to any device worn on the body intended to support the wearer in a safe position in water whilst awaiting rescue.

The following types of flotation device are excluded:

- Swimming aids;
- Throwable flotation devices and flotation cushions; and
- Personal flotation devices designed and manufactured specifically for use by the armed forces.

2 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this compulsory specification, the following definitions apply:

2.1 Personal flotation device:

garment or device which, when correctly worn and used in water, will provide the user with a specific amount of buoyancy which will increase the likelihood of survival.

2.2 Swimming aid:

garment or device which when worn or held correctly, and used in water under constant supervision, will provide the buoyancy required to become familiar with movement through the water, assist with learning to swim or to improve swimming strokes.

2.3 Applicant:

the manufacturer or importer seeking approval of Personal Flotation Devices and is an established legal entity within the Republic of South Africa.

2.4 Regulator:

the body appointed by the Minister to administer compulsory specifications.

2.5 Proof of conformity:

copies of original test reports issued by a conformity assessment body recognised by the Regulator, or copies of original certificates of conformity issued by a certification scheme recognised by the Regulator confirming that the personal flotation device fully complies with, or continues to fully comply with the requirements of this compulsory specification.

2.6 **Conformity of production:**

satisfactory proof that personal flotation devices offered for sale do not in any material way differ from those originally submitted for approval.

2.7 **Minister:**

the Minister of Trade and Industry.

2.8 **Personal Flotation Device type:**

category of personal flotation device that does not differ in such essential respects as:

a) the trade name or mark, and

b) the shape, materials, dimensions, manufacturing processes or methods of assembly. A personal flotation device type may include a range of sizes, provided that the dimensions of each size in the range is at least equal to that in the sample which when subjected to the tests satisfied the requirements of this Specification.

3 REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Lifejackets for seagoing ships shall comply with SANS 12402-1: *Personal flotation devices - Part 1: Lifejackets for seagoing ships – Safety requirements'*.

3.2 Lifejackets for extreme offshore conditions shall comply with SANS 12402-2: *Personal flotation devices - Part 2: Lifejackets for extreme offshore conditions (level 275) – Safety requirements*.

3.3 Lifejackets for offshore conditions shall comply with SANS 12402-3: *Personal flotation devices - Part 3: Lifejackets for offshore conditions (level 150) – Safety requirements*.

3.4 Lifejackets for inland/close to shore conditions shall comply with SANS 12402-4: *Personal flotation devices - Part 4: Lifejackets for inland/close to shore conditions (level 100) – Safety requirements*.

3.5 Buoyancy aids shall comply with SANS 12402-5: *Personal flotation devices - Part 5: Buoyancy aids (level 50) – Safety requirements.*

3.6 Special purpose lifejackets and buoyancy aids shall comply with SANS 12402-6: *Personal flotation devices - Part 6: Special purpose lifejackets and buoyancy aids – Safety requirements and additional test methods.*

3.7 Materials and components of personal flotation devices shall comply with SANS 12402-7: *Personal flotation devices - Part 7: Materials and components – Safety requirements and test methods.*

3.8 Accessories for personal flotation devices shall comply with SANS 12402-8: *Personal flotation devices - Part 8: Accessories – Safety requirements and test methods.*

3.9 The manufacturer or importer shall apply to the Regulator for approval of every type and model of personal flotation device before offering it for sale, in accordance with the requirements of Annex A.

3.10 The manufacturer and/or importer shall inform the Regulator of any change in design or components affecting any mandatory requirement in terms of this compulsory specification. In the event of such change/s the Regulator may, at its discretion, demand the submission of fresh evidence of conformity or a new application for approval.

3.11 The manufacturer or importer shall on request provide the Regulator with satisfactory proof of ongoing conformity of production.

3.12 Failure to provide such proof shall constitute reasonable grounds for suspicion of non-compliance with the requirements of this compulsory specification.

3.13 All markings and instructions for use shall be in the English language, and may be in any other official language used in South Africa.

4. WITHDRAWAL OF APPROVAL

The approval granted in respect of personal flotation devices pursuant to the specification may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice if the requirements have not been met.

5. EQUIVALENCE OF STANDARDS

Standards issued by different standardization bodies (for example, ISO, IEC, EN) and proved by the applicant to be identical to a SA National Standard are deemed

the equivalent of that SA National Standard. Proof of compliance with such a standard shall be accepted as compliance with the SA National Standard.

6. LABELLING AND MARKING

In addition to such markings as may be required in order to comply with the requirements of SANS 12402 the unique approval number applicable to the specific Personal Flotation Device shall appear on the product in letters at least 6 mm high, as follows:

RSA ***** (insert actual approval number).

ANNEX A

APPROVAL OF PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

A.1 APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL

An application for approval of a type of Personal Flotation Device shall include the following:

a) Details of the type and model of personal flotation device for which approval is sought and the standard/s to which it is claimed to conform;

b) Details of the manufacturing plant/s in which the personal flotation device is produced;

c) Proof of conformity with all the requirements of the relevant compulsory specification including standards and test methods referred to;

d) Markings and other information appearing on the product;

e) Drawings to scale in sufficient detail to permit identification of all component parts and materials thereof, including assembly and markings;

f) One specimen of each size of the type of Personal Flotation Device, including all accessories supplied within the packaging, packaging, instructions for use and markings;

g) Information to the satisfaction of the Regulator regarding the measures taken by the applicant to ensure conformity of production.

h) Any reasonable additional information requested by the Regulator;

i) Proof of payment of the application fee determined by the Minister.

A.2 APPROVAL

a) The Regulator shall assess the evidence of conformity supplied by the applicant. Additional information or evidence, or validation of evidence, may be requested at its sole discretion.

b) The Regulator shall approve the personal flotation device when all its requirements have been met, and shall issue an approval bearing a unique number to the manufacturer or importer specific to the approved personal flotation devices.

c) The approval number shall appear on the personal flotation device as required by Clause 6 in a position visible to the purchaser at the point of sale.

d) The approval shall be valid until the requirements of the compulsory specification or the standards referred to change; or until the design or components change necessitating re-approval as required by Clause 3.11 of this compulsory specification.

SCHEDULE

COMPULSORY SPECIFICATION FOR SWIMMING AIDS

1 SCOPE

This specification covers the safety requirements for Swimming Aids. It is applicable to devices intended to assist users with movement through the water whilst learning to swim, or whilst learning part of a swimming stroke. It does not apply to buoyancy aids, lifejackets or aquatic toys.

2 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this compulsory specification, the following definitions apply:

2.1 Swimming aid:

garment or device which when worn or held correctly, and used in water under constant supervision, will provide the buoyancy required to become familiar with movement through the water, assist with learning to swim or to improve swimming strokes.

2.2 Applicant:

a manufacturer or importer that seeks approval of Swimming Aids and is an established legal entity within the Republic of South Africa.

2.3 Regulator:

the body appointed by the Minister to administer compulsory specifications.

2.4 Proof of conformity:

copies of original test reports issued by a conformity assessment body recognised by the Regulator, or copies of original certificates of conformity issued by a certification scheme recognised by the Regulator confirming that the personal flotation device fully complies with, or continues to fully comply with the requirements of this compulsory specification.

2.5 Conformity of production:

satisfactory proof that swimming aids offered for sale do not in any material way differ from those originally submitted for approval.

2.6 **Swimming Aid type:**

category of Swimming Aid that does not differ in such essential respects as:

a) the trade name or mark; and

b) the shape, materials, dimensions, manufacturing processes or methods of assembly. A Swimming Aid type may include a range of sizes, provided that the dimensions of each size in the range is at least equal to that in the sample which when subjected to the tests satisfied the requirements of this Specification.

3 REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Swimming aids that are carried or worn on the body shall comply with the applicable requirements of SANS (EN) 53138 – 1 *Buoyant aids for swimming instruction* – Part 1: *Safety requirements and test methods for buoyant aids to be worn.*

3.2 Swim seats shall comply with the applicable requirements of SANS (EN) 53138 - 3 *Buoyant aids for swimming instruction* – Part 3: *Safety requirements and test methods for swim seats to be worn.*

3.3 The manufacturer or importer shall apply to the Regulator for approval of every type and model of swimming aid or swimming aid before offering it for sale, in accordance with the requirements of Annex A.

3.4 The manufacturer and/or importer shall inform the Regulator of any change in design or components affecting any mandatory requirement in terms of this compulsory specification. In the event of such change/s the Regulator may, at its discretion, demand the submission of fresh evidence of conformity or a new application for approval.

3.5 The manufacturer or importer shall on request provide the Regulator with satisfactory proof of ongoing conformity of production.

3.6 Failure to provide such proof shall constitute reasonable grounds for suspicion of non-compliance with the requirements of this compulsory specification.

3.7 All markings and instructions for use shall be in the English language, and may be in any other official language used in South Africa.

4. WITHDRAWAL OF APPROVAL

The approval granted in respect of swimming aids pursuant to the specification may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice if the requirements have not been met.

5. EQUIVALENCE OF STANDARDS

Standards issued by different standardization bodies (for example, ISO, IEC, EN) and proved by the applicant to be identical to a SA National Standard are deemed the equivalent of that SA National Standard. Proof of compliance with such a standard shall be accepted as compliance with the SA National Standard.

6. LABELLING AND MARKING

In addition to such markings as may be required in order to comply with the requirements of SANS 53138, the unique APPROVAL number applicable to the specific Swimming Aid shall appear on the product in letters at least 6 mm high, as follows:

RSA ***** (insert actual Approval number).

ANNEX A

APPROVAL OF SWIMMING AIDS

A.1 APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL

An application for approval shall include:

a) Details of the type and model of swimming aid for which approval is sought and the standard/s to which it is claimed to conform;

b) Details of the manufacturing plant/s in which the swimming aid is produced;

c) Proof of conformity with all the requirements of the relevant compulsory specification including standards and test methods referred to;

d) Markings and other information appearing on the product;

e) Drawings to scale in sufficient detail to permit identification of all component parts and materials thereof, including assembly and markings;

f) One specimen of each size of the type of swimming aid, including all accessories supplied within the packaging, packaging, instructions for use and markings;

g) Information to the satisfaction of the Regulator regarding the measures taken by the applicant to ensure conformity of production;

h) Any reasonable additional information requested by the Regulator;

i) Proof of payment of the application fee determined by the Minister.

A.2 APPROVAL

a) The Regulator shall assess the evidence of conformity supplied by the applicant. Additional information or evidence, or validation of evidence, may be requested at its sole discretion.

b) The Regulator shall approve the swimming aid when all its requirements have been met, and shall issue an approval to the manufacturer or importer specific to the approved swimming aid/s bearing a unique approval number.

c) The approval number shall appear on the swimming aid as required by Clause 6 in a position visible to the purchaser at the point of sale.