

Submission: **SR05-08**

Offshore Special Regulations – 5.01.2

Strength of Crotch Strap and Thigh Straps for Lifejackets

A submission from the NSF (NSF 002-08)

Proposal:

New items:

5.01 Lifejacket

5.01.2 A lifejacket shall have:	MoMu1,2,3,4
a) at least 150N buoyancy, arranged to securely suspend an unconscious man face upwards at approximately 45 degrees to the water surface - in accordance with ISO 12402 - 3 (level 150) or equivalent (for persons of larger than average build the ISO 12402 – 2 (level 275) jacket should be considered);	MoMu1,2,3,4
b) a crotch strap or thigh straps;	MoMu1,2,3,4
<u>c) crotch straps and thigh straps shall have width and strength which is not lower that that of the life jacket structural webbing which it is attached to. Ref. ISO 12402-7;</u>	<u>MoMu1,2,3,4</u>
<u>d) the device for attaching the crotch strap or the thigh straps to the life jacket shall have a strength which is not lower than that of the straps;</u>	<u>MoMu1,2,3,4</u>
e) a lifejacket light in accordance with SOLAS LSA code 2.2.3 (white, >0.75 candelas, >8 hours);	MoMu1,2,3,4
e f) if inflatable have a compressed gas inflation system.	MoMu1,2,3,4
<i>It is strongly recommended that a lifejacket has:</i>	MoMu1,2,3,4
e f) a splashguard/sprayhood See ISO 12402 - 8;	MoMu1,2,3,4
f g) A PLB units (as with other types of EPIRB, should	MoMu1,2,3,4

be properly registered with the appropriate authority)

Current Position:

There are no strength requirements for crotch straps or thigh straps.

Reason:

Experience from the Sydney to Hobart Race 1998 (ref Rob Mundle, Fatal Storm, Adlard Coles Nautical, 2003) shows that a person hanging outside the lifelines lost both safety vest and harness over his head in connection with a trial to recover him. He was left in stormy seas without life vest and harness. Several similar incidents have been reported.

A crotch strap or thigh straps are inexpensive and effective item to considerably reduce the risk of losing the life vest in a case of emergency, and straps should be strong enough for rescuing a person from the water.