AS 12401:2025

Australian STANDARD®

STANDARDS Australia

Small craft — Deck safety harness and safety line — Safety requirements and test methods (ISO 12401:2009, MOD)



AS 12401:2025

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Association of Accredited Certification Bodies
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Australian Maritime Safety Authority
Australian Sailing
Boating Industry Association
Engineers Australia
Marine & Safety Tasmania
Marine Rescue NSW
Maritime Safety Queensland
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How to read this Standard

This page explains the meaning of the language and structure of this Standard.

Refer to Standards Australia's Standardisation Guide 006 for more details about drafting rules.

Australian and Australian/New Zealand Standards are voluntary unless they are referenced in legislation or called up in contracts.

Requirements

To conform to a Standard, all requirements in the Standard need to be met.

A requirement is any statement in the Standard which uses the word "shall".

Recommendations, permissions and possibilities

The following words are commonly used in Standards, but statements using them do not have to be followed to conform to the Standard:

(a) "should" means that something is recommended.

(b) "may" means that something is permitted.

(c) "can" means that something is possible.

Structure of Standards

A Standard always has the following parts:

(i) The Preface states who developed the Standard, what the Standard is aiming to do, and how it relates to other documents.

(ii) The Scope states what the Standard is about, what it covers and what it does not cover.

(iii) The Normative references clause lists other documents that are referenced in the Standard as part of requirements.

(iv) The Terms and definitions clause defines important terms to help with understanding the Standard.

A Standard may also include other parts, such as the following:

(1) A normative appendix sets additional requirements that need to be conformed to.

(2) An informative appendix provides additional information or guidance. An informative appendix provides additional information or guidance. They usually do not contain requirements. If an informative appendix does contain requirements, the Standard will explain when those requirements apply.

(3) A Bibliography lists documents referenced in the Standard but not as part of requirements.

Many Standards include notes. Notes provide recommendations and/or guidance only. They never contain requirements.

This Standard is a modified adoption of an International Standard. It makes changes to the international text.

The changes to the international text are shown in boxes in the text. These boxes have the heading "National Variations".

To use this Standard in Australia/New Zealand, the changes in the national variation boxes need to be followed.

Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Australian members of the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CS-060, Lifejackets and Personal Safety Equipment for Small Craft, to supersede AS 2227:2006, *Yachting harnesses and lines — Conventional lines*.

The objective of this document is to specify the requirements for performance, sizing, marking and test methods for deck safety harnesses and safety lines on recreational craft.

This document is an adoption with national modifications, and has been reproduced from, ISO 12401:2009, *Small craft — Deck safety harness and safety line — Safety requirements and test methods*.

As this document has been reproduced from an International document, the following apply:

(a) In the source text “this International Standard” should read “this document”.

(b) A full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards that are identical adoptions of international normative references may be used interchangeably. Refer to the online catalogue for information on specific Standards.

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 12401 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 188, *Small craft*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 12401:2004), which has been technically revised.

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Introduction

This International Standard has been prepared to meet the needs of persons afloat on recreational craft. Deck safety harnesses and safety lines manufactured according to this International Standard will give reasonable assurance that the wearer will remain attached to the craft.

A deck safety harness and safety line does not provide protection against falls from a height. This International Standard does not cover the requirements of a dinghy “trapeze” harness, a windsurfing harness, or a seat harness for fast motor boats.

This International Standard is intended to serve as a guide to manufacturers, purchasers and users of such safety equipment by ensuring that the equipment provides an effective standard of performance in use.

Equally essential is the need for the designer to encourage the wearing of the equipment by making it comfortable and attractive for continuous wear while afloat, rather than for it to be stowed in a locker for emergency use. The principal reason for the existence of this International Standard is the recognition that comfort and mobility are important factors in determining whether deck safety harnesses are worn.

The primary aims in wearing a deck safety harness are:

a) to prevent the wearer from falling into the water, and

b) to assist in recovering the wearer onto the working deck.

Preventing the wearer from actually falling into the water is dependent on the location of the attachment to the craft and the length of the safety line. Because a correctly worn deck safety harness and safety line will, in normal circumstances, prevent the wearer from entering the water, no consideration is given to the towing position after a fall. The importance of ensuring a firm fit cannot be overstressed. Unless the harness is fitted with an automatic tensioner, it remains the responsibility of the wearer to correctly adjust the harness to achieve a firm fit.

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1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the requirements for performance, sizing, marking and test methods for deck safety harnesses and safety lines on recreational craft.

It is applicable to harnesses and lines in the following sizes of body mass:

a) size 1: > 50 kg [1];

b) size 2: > 20 kg ≤ 50 kg [2]);

c) size 3: ≤ 20 kg [3];

which are intended to be worn by all persons when in the exposed cockpit or on the working deck of a craft afloat.

It is not applicable to dinghy “trapeze” harnesses, windsurfing harnesses, seat harnesses for fast motor boats, and harnesses intended to protect against falls from a height.

NATIONAL VARIATIONS

Delete item a) and *replace* with the following:

a) size 1: > 40 kg;

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

NATIONAL VARIATIONS

After “EN 892:2004, *Mountaineering equipment — Dynamic mountaineering rope — Safety requirements and test* methods” *add* the following:

EN 12275:2013, *Mountaineering equipment — Connectors — Safety requirements and test methods*

UIAA \121,_ *Connectors/Karabiners*

ISO 139, *Textiles — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing*

ISO 9227, *Corrosion tests in artificial atmospheres — Salt spray tests*

1 Multisizing permitted.

2 Multisizing permitted.

3 Multisizing permitted.

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