

INCH-POUND

A-A-59772

11 April 2005

SUPERSEDING

MIL-L-15581K

24 October 1986

## COMMERCIAL ITEM DESCRIPTION

## LIFE PRESERVER, ABANDON SHIP

The General Services Administration has authorized the use of this commercial item description, for all federal agencies.

1. SCOPE. This commercial item description covers requirements for an abandon ship life preserver used by personnel on United States Navy surface ships conducting abandon ship or amphibious troop operations only.

2. SALIENT CHARACTERISTICS.

2.1 Performance characteristics. The abandon ship life preserver (excluding the manual inflator) shall meet Type III personal flotation device (PFD) requirements of 46 CFR, subpart 160.076 and UL 1180. This includes all physical material components, buoyancy/flotation characteristics, and marking requirements. The inflatable bladder shall provide a minimum of 33 lbs of buoyancy and shall support the head.

2.2 Design and construction. The abandon ship life preserver shall be an inflatable preserver comprised of a waist belt with an attached pouch and a removable accessories pocket. The waist belt shall be adjustable and secured by a side release buckle. (see Figures 1 and 2)

2.2.1 Outer shell material. The life preserver pouch and accessories pocket shall be fabricated from a 210-denier nylon material in an oxford weave and in the color Navy blue. The cloth shall have:

- a. Minimum breaking strength of 150 lbs in the warp and filling when tested in accordance with ASTM D5034.
- b. Minimum tongue tear of 9½ lbs in each direction when tested in accordance with ASTM D2261.
- c. Minimum yarn slippage of 66 lbs warp and filling when tested in accordance with UL 1191.
- d. Minimum seam strength of 70 lbs warp and filling when tested in accordance with ASTM D1683.

2.2.2 Bladder material. The material for the bladder shall be sealable polyurethane-coated nylon cloth, in the color yellow. It shall have minimum tear strength of 3¾ lbs for warp, 2¾ lbs for the filling, and 45 lbs for adhesion.

2.2.3 Bladder tie straps. The inflatable bladder shall have two nylon, polyester, or polypropylene webbing tie straps at the upper chest/neck to secure the bladder when inflated. Each strap shall be a minimum of ¾ inch in width by 12 inches minimum in length.

2.2.4 Bladder markings. The bladder shall have a marking identifying the cylinder size (33 grams) and the method for folding and repackaging the bladder within the pouch.

2.2.5 Waist belt. The waist belt shall be 1½-inch minimum width nylon, polyester or polypropylene webbing with a slide adjuster and secured with a side buckle closure.

2.2.6 Sizing. The vest shall be a universal size waist (30 to 52 inches).

Beneficial comments, recommendations, additions, deletions, clarifications, etc. and any data that may improve this document should be sent to: Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command, ATTN: SEA 05Q, 1333 Isaac Hull Avenue, SE, Stop 5160, Washington Navy Yard DC 20376-5160 or emailed to [commandstandards@navsea.navy.mil](mailto:commandstandards@navsea.navy.mil), with the subject line "Document Comment". Since contact information can change, you may want to verify the currency of this address information using the ASSIST Online database at <http://assist.daps.dla.mil/>.

A-A-59772

2.2.7 Vest pouch. The vest pouch shall contain the following:

- a. Over-the-head inflatable bladder with tie straps (see 6.3)
- b. 33-gram CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder (see 6.3)
- c. Manual inflator (see 6.3)

2.2.8 Accessories pocket. The accessories pocket shall be designed with straps or web belt tunnel for attachment to the waist belt. The pocket shall accommodate the required accessories and their accessory attachment cords. The pocket shall have a pocket flap secured by hook and loop tape. The accessories pocket shall contain the following:

- a. Distress marker light (see 6.3)
- b. Flat whistle (see 6.3)
- c. Buddy line with toggle

2.2.9 Accessories securing cords. The distress marker light and flat whistle shall be secured to the accessories pocket with nominal 1/16-inch diameter nylon, polyester, or polypropylene cord 36 inches in length with a minimum tensile strength of 90 lbs when tested using instrumentation in accordance with ASTM D76. The buddy line shall be nominal 1/8-inch diameter cord or 1/2-inch tubular webbing, nylon, polyester or polypropylene, and 48 inches long in finished length. It shall have a hold-strength of 90 lbs for 10 seconds and a maximum break strength of 300 lbs. The toggle shall be plastic and approximately 2 1/2 inches long.

2.2.10 Distress marker light patch. The upper left section (shoulder area) of the bladder shall contain a minimum 1 1/2- by 1 1/2-inch nylon loop tape patch to temporarily attach the distress marker light in man-overboard situations. The distress marker light shall have a 1- by 2-inch nylon hook tape patch adhered to the back of the light.

2.2.11 Labeling. In addition to the labels/markings required by Code of Federal Regulations, there shall be a label marked with the Manufacturer Name, Vest Model Number, National Stock Number, and U.S. Navy Certification Number.

2.3 Environmental requirements. All components shall be UL recognized for use in PFDs, including accelerated weathering to UL 1191.

3. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS. The offeror/contractor is encouraged to use recovered materials to the maximum extent practicable, in accordance with paragraph 23.403 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).

4. PRODUCT CONFORMANCE PROVISIONS. The products provided shall meet the salient characteristics of this Commercial Item Description, conform to the producer's own drawings, specifications, standards, and quality assurance practices, and be the same product offered for sale in the commercial marketplace. The government reserves the right to require proof of such conformance.

5. PACKAGING. Preservation, packing, and marking shall be as specified in the contract or order.

6. NOTES.

6.1 Source of documents.

6.1.1 ASTM. ASTM standards are available from ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959 or online at [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).

6.1.2 CFR. The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) may be obtained from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20401 or online at [www.gpoaccess.gov/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/index.html).

6.1.3 UL. Underwriters Laboratories standards are available from COMM 2000, 1414 Brook Drive, Downers Grove, IL 60515 or online at [www.ul.com](http://www.ul.com).

A-A-59772

6.2 Ordering data. The contract or order should specify the following:

- a. CID document number and revision.
- b. National stock numbers (NSNs).
- c. Product conformance provisions.
- d. Quantity required.
- e. Packaging requirements.

6.3 National stock numbers (NSNs). The following is a list of NSNs assigned that correspond to this CID. The list may not be indicative of all possible NSNs associated with the CID.

NSN	Item
4220-01-487-2932	Life Preserver, Abandon Ship
4220-01-493-5995	Manual Inflator Mechanism
4220-01-487-2933	33-gram CO2 Cylinder
4220-01-487-2929	Distress Marker Light, Firefly 2
4220-01-487-2931	Flat Whistle

6.4 Key words.

Abandon  
Life Preserver  
Personal Flotation Device

#### MILITARY INTERESTS

Custodians:  
Navy – SH  
Air Force – 03

Preparing Activity:  
Navy – SH  
(Project 4220-0460-000)

Review Activities:  
Navy – AS  
Air Force – 11, 84, 99  
DLA – IS

NOTE: The activities listed above were interested in this document as of the date of this document. Since organizations and responsibilities can change, you should verify the currency of the information above using the ASSIST Online database at <http://assist.daps.dla.mil>.

A-A-59772



FIGURE 1. Abandon ship life preserver vest pouch and accessories pocket.



FIGURE 2. Bladder and accessories.