



UL 1175

STANDARD FOR SAFETY

Buoyant Cushions

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UL Standard for Safety for Buoyant Cushions, UL 1175

Fourth Edition, Dated April 20, 2007

Summary of Topics

This revision to ANSI/UL 1175 dated August 16, 2024 is being issued to update the title page to reflect the most recent designation as a Reaffirmed American National Standard (ANS). No technical changes have been made.

Text that has been changed in any manner or impacted by ULSE's electronic publishing system is marked with a vertical line in the margin.

The requirements are substantially in accordance with Proposal(s) on this subject dated June 21, 2024.

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UL 1175

Standard for Buoyant Cushions

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Fourth Edition

April 20, 2007

This ANSI/UL Standard for Safety consists of the Fourth Edition including revisions through August 16, 2024.

The most recent designation of ANSI/UL 1175 as a Reaffirmed American National Standard (ANS) occurred on August 16, 2024. ANSI approval for a standard does not include the Cover Page, Transmittal Pages, and Title Page.

Comments or proposals for revisions on any part of the Standard may be submitted to ULSE at any time. Proposals should be submitted via a Proposal Request in the Collaborative Standards Development System (CSDS) at <https://csds.ul.com>.

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INTRODUCTION

1 Scope

1.1 These requirements cover buoyant cushions using unicellular plastic foam, kapok, or fibrous glass flotation material that are intended to be used in accordance with the applicable regulations of the United States Coast Guard (USCG).

1.2 The buoyant cushions covered by these requirements are intended for USCG approval under 46 CFR 160.048 or 160.049.

1.3 These requirements do not cover buoyant cushions that employ entrapped air as the prime buoyant means.

2 Units of Measurement

2.1 Values stated without parentheses are the requirement. Values in parentheses are explanatory or approximate information.

3 Undated References

3.1 Any undated reference to a code or standard appearing in the requirements of this standard shall be interpreted as referring to the latest edition of that code or standard.

4 Components

4.1 Except as indicated in 4.2, a component of a product covered by this standard shall comply with the requirements for that component.

4.2 A component is not required to comply with a specific requirement that:

- a) Involves a feature or characteristic not required in the application of the component in the product covered by this standard, or
- b) Is superseded by a requirement in this standard.

4.3 A component shall be used in accordance with its rating established for the intended conditions of use.

4.4 Specific components are incomplete in construction features or restricted in performance capabilities. Such components are intended for use only under limited conditions, such as certain temperatures not exceeding specified limits, and shall be used only under those specific conditions.

4.5 A component used in a device covered by this standard shall comply with the applicable requirements in the Standard for Components for Personal Flotation Devices, UL 1191.

5 General

5.1 A buoyant cushion shall be of the box, rectangular, or trapezoidal type and shall have a top, a bottom, and sides. A pillow type cushion having a top and bottom cover only does not comply with the requirement.

5.2 A cushion shall be constructed so that within 1 minute a swimmer is able to be oriented to the device in such a manner that the face is out of the water without the necessity for constant use of either hand.

5.3 A device shall not incorporate means obviously intended for fastening or securing the device to a boat, nor shall instructions accompanying the device indicate such intent.

Exception: A Type IV buoyant cushion may be provided with hook and pile fastener tapes, or the equivalent, on the cushion's bottom surface when the cushion complies with the requirements specified in the Release Test, Section [16](#), and is marked in accordance with [21.7](#).

5.4 A device shall be constructed to reduce the likelihood of shifting or bunching of internal materials.

6 Glossary

6.1 For the purpose of this Standard, the following definitions apply.

6.2 BAR TACK – A type of stitching sewn in a zig-zag pattern that is at least 3/32 inch (2.4 mm) wide, 5/8 inches (15.9 mm) long, and 18 stitches of a lock type stitch, such as Type 301, Federal Standard 751.

6.3 DEVICE – Any buoyant cushion.

6.4 FOAM – Closed-cell foamed polymeric material.

6.5 GROUP APPROVAL – A single approval granted by the USCG for buoyant cushions using foam, kapok, or fibrous glass flotation materials; and that are in accordance with all of the applicable established dimensions and specifications of this standard.

6.6 INSERT – A quantity of buoyant material that has been cut or formed for insertion into a device.

6.7 JOINING SEAM – A seam that serves a functional purpose in the end product as distinguished from a decorative function.

6.8 LOCK TYPE STITCH – A stitch that will not unravel when a force is applied in the direction of the seam on any of the threads forming the stitch.

6.9 SCRAP FOAM – Material obtained from production remnants.

6.10 SEAM – A joint consisting of a sequence or series of stitches uniting two or more pieces of material.

6.11 SPECIAL APPROVAL – A single approval granted by the USCG for a buoyant cushion that is more than 2 inches (50.8 mm) thick, or has dimensions other than those covered in [Table 8.1](#) and [Table 8.2](#).

CONSTRUCTION

7 Material

7.1 Material used in a cushion shall be new.

7.2 Buoyant materials shall be fibrous glass, kapok, or foam.

7.3 Fibrous buoyant material shall be completely encased in flexible heat-sealed film complying with the requirements for plastic film in the requirements in the Standard for Components for Personal Flotation Devices, UL 1191, or be in accordance with the requirements of Federal Specification LP375C.

7.4 Flexible film shall comply with the requirements for flexible film in the Standard for Components for Personal Flotation Devices, UL 1191.

7.5 Kapok used shall be raw fiber, long, clean, lustrous, creamy white, free from discoloration and other fiber, and shall be in accordance with 46 CFR 164.003. The kapok shall be processed by the "Air-Blow" method and shall separate fiber from masses and leave no more than 5 percent by weight of sticks, seeds, or other foreign matter. Processing shall not break down the fiber or cause undue powdering or pulverizing.

7.6 Fibrous glass buoyant materials shall be in accordance with the requirements of Military Specification MIL-B-2766.

7.7 Welting, when used, shall be of a fiber or plastic material acceptable for the purpose.

7.8 Thread shall have a minimum breaking strength after 100 hours of accelerated weathering of 4.7 pounds-force (20.9 N), wet, dry, or both, as applicable, and shall be in accordance with the applicable requirements for thread in 46 CFR 160.048 and 160.049.

7.9 Cover materials shall have a minimum breaking strength after 100 hours of accelerated weathering of 105 pounds-force (467 N) in the direction of greater thread count and 70 pounds-force (311 N) in the direction of lesser thread count and shall be in accordance with the applicable requirements in 46 CFR 160.048 and 160.049 for cover materials.

7.10 Fabrics shall comply with the requirements for fabrics in the requirements in the Standard for Components for Personal Flotation Devices, UL 1191. Name, denier, thread count, weight per square yard, and type and mount of coating shall be used to identify fabrics.

7.11 In addition to the requirements in [7.10](#), the adhesion of the coating shall be such as to require no less than 8 pounds-force (35 N) to separate it from the cloth backing in accordance with the applicable requirements in 46 CFR 160.048 and 160.049 for coated cover materials.

7.12 Liquid elastomeric compounds employed as dip coatings shall be applied to all external surfaces of buoyant material to provide a minimum thickness of 0.010 inches (0.25 mm) and shall be in accordance with the applicable requirements in 46 CFR 160.049 for dip materials.

7.13 To determine compliance with the requirements of [7.12](#), a piece of glass or other equivalent material shall be dipped following the same procedure used to dip the personal flotation device. Glass or equivalent material is to be used so that the vinyl coating separates from the material to allow the thickness to be measured accurately.

7.14 No less than 48 hours after dipping, the vinyl is then to be peeled off the glass, and the thickness measured at the center and four points around the perimeter. The average of the five values shall be the value checked for compliance with the requirements of [7.12](#).

7.15 Adhesives shall be all-purpose waterproof vinyl type in accordance with Subpart 160.049.

7.16 When used for vinyl-dip coated cushions, reinforcing vinyl shall have a minimum thickness of 0.040 inch (1.02 mm) and shall be attached to the foam by adhesive. See [7.15](#).

7.17 Uncoated 70 denier fabrics shall:

- a) Have 3/4 inch (19.1 mm) seams; or
- b) Incorporate two rows of lockstitch, or the equivalent.

7.18 Thread used for structural seams shall comply with the requirements for thread in the requirements in the Standard for Components for Personal Flotation Devices, UL 1191. See [1.2](#).

7.19 Monofilament thread shall not be used for structural seams.

7.20 Thread and fabric combinations shall be compatible. Cotton threads shall be used only with cotton fabrics; synthetic threads may be used with all fabrics.

8 Kapok or Fibrous Glass Cushions

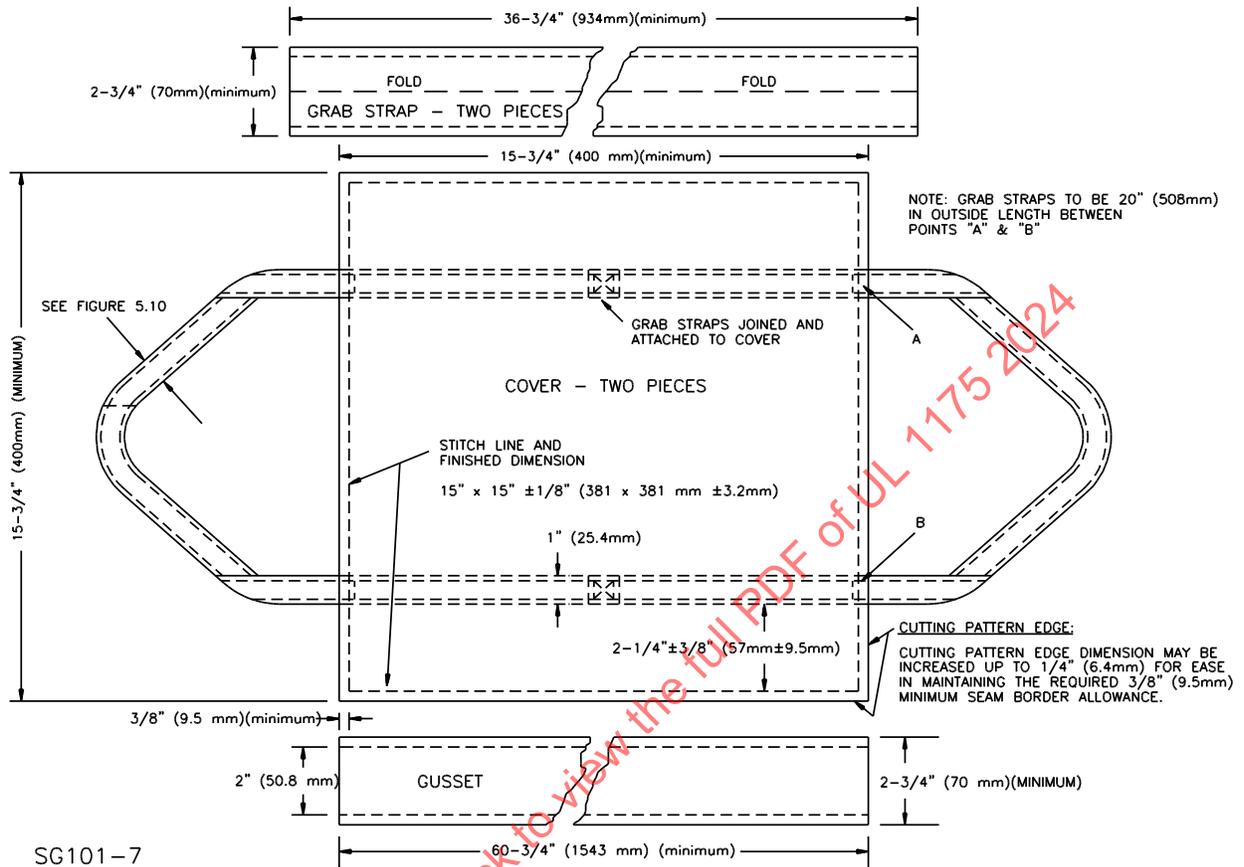
8.1 Kapok or fibrous glass cushions shall be in accordance with the construction requirements of [8.1](#) – [8.17](#).

8.2 Cushions shall have sufficient volume to provide at least 20 pounds-force (89 N) of buoyancy.

8.3 Kapok filled or fibrous glass cushions with group approval shall be constructed in accordance with [Figure 8.1](#).

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Figure 8.1
Buoyant cushions kapok, fibrous glass, or unicellular plastic foam



NOTE 1 – Tolerances on all finished dimensions 6 inches (152.4 mm) or less shall be ±1/8 inch (±3.2 mm) and shall be ±1/4 inch (±6.4 mm) on dimensions greater than 6 inches (152.4 mm), unless otherwise specified.

NOTE 2 – Uncoated 70 denier cover fabrics, other than cotton, shall comply with 8.14 or 9.9. However, the stitching shall be no less than 3/4 inch (19.1 mm) from the edges of the cloth or shall be topstitched (see Figure 8.12).

NOTE 3 – Finished dimension on the gusset width for 15 by 15 by 2 inch (381 by 381 by 50.8 mm) cushions shall be 2, plus 1/2, minus 0 inches (50.8, plus 12.7, minus 0 mm).