

Specification for

Inflatable armbands worn as flotation aids

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Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Textiles and Clothing Standards Policy Committee (TCM/-) to Technical Committee TCM/55, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Amateur Swimming Association
- Association of British Dispensing Opticians
- British Rubber Manufacturers' Association Ltd.
- British Sub-Aqua Club
- British Sub-Aqua Club (National Snorkellers Club)
- British Toy and Hobby Association
- Child Accident Prevention Trust
- Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
- Department of Education and Science
- Department of Trade and Industry (Consumer Safety Unit, CA Division)
- Diving Trade Association
- Institute of Baths and Recreation Management
- Institute of Trading Standards Administration
- Royal Life Saving Society UK
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents
- Swimming Pool and Allied Trades Association Ltd.
- Swimming Teachers' Association

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Textiles and Clothing Standards Policy Committee, was published under the authority of the Standards Board and comes into effect on 15 July 1993

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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Textiles and Clothing Standards Policy Committee.

This standard specifies means of ensuring that inflatable armbands perform in the way intended; it is important that they do not increase the risk to the wearer of drowning, as a result of poor design or performance. Single chamber inflatable armbands are considered not to offer a sufficient safety margin.

BS 5665-1:1989, which is under revision, also includes requirements for certain types of inflatable armbands; all inflatable armbands are expected to be excluded from the scope of the revision currently being undertaken. Therefore, as there are no conflicting requirements between BS 5665-1:1989 and this standard, the latter has been published prior to withdrawal of BS 5665-1:1989.

It is essential that there is a clear distinction between devices intended to preserve life and those which are intended only to assist flotation. Armbands are not designed to keep users in a safe floating position with the head above water, but are intended to assist wearers in learning to swim or when playing in water by giving them confidence and limited buoyancy. Armbands are not life preservers and they should only be used in swimming pools and other situations free from currents and tides, and always under competent adult supervision. The need for such supervision means that they cannot be regarded as toys.

The age groups given in this standard are for test purposes only. It is important that armbands are designed in such a way that they can be securely fitted to the appropriate size of wearer, and, when correctly fitted, cannot become displaced. It is unlikely that any one size of armband would be suitable for all ages and sizes of user and, therefore, care should be taken when selecting a swimming aid that it is the correct size.

Although this standard sets performance requirements to ensure that armbands perform appropriately, it is still necessary for the products to be used correctly. This can only be achieved through careful labelling, the inclusion of instructions and the education of parents and others who supervise children and other learners in water.

It has not been possible to include a quantitative requirement for resistance of welded seams to tear initiation in this first edition of the standard; it is intended to publish such a requirement, together with a supporting method of test, as soon as a repeatable and reproducible test becomes available.

The use of flotation aids covered by this standard should be regarded as a supplement for good practice when caring for those learning to swim or playing in water. Those learning to swim using armbands should be taught ideally by qualified instructors.

Assessed capability. Users of this British Standard are advised to consider the desirability of quality system assessment and registration against the appropriate Part of BS 5750 by a third party certification body.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 6, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.