

Specification for

Inflatable boats (Manual or motor propelled)

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The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:
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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the authority of the Shipbuilding and Marine Industry Standards Committee following a request of the Ship and Boat Builders National Federation who considered that there was a need to provide increased protection for users of inflatable boats. Such users might include yachtsmen, fishermen, or the family on holiday, as well as commercial users such as rescue organizations, divers or surveyors. Within these broad requirements the aim of this standard is primarily to ensure quality and to guide manufacturers and those responsible for purchasing, prescribing or recommending inflatable boats, on the minimum performance requirements which can reasonably be expected. Cognizance has been taken of what little information is available among the ISO member bodies with the view to securing the widest possible acceptance and use of this standard.

It is important to note that there is separate treatment for life-rafts and boats as required by statutory regulation. These must meet the standards laid down by International Convention (SOLAS 1960), and by regulations under the Merchant Shipping (life-saving) Appliance Rules.

Attention is also drawn to a related standard, BS 3595, "*Life-saving jackets*".

No attempt has been made to standardize the design form of the boats, which may be used for a wide variety of purposes. However, the standard does lay down minimum safety requirements and calls for clear markings to show the limitations of the boat in terms of load capacity and motor power.

The BSI Technical Committee responsible for the preparation of this British Standard was keenly aware that in many respects new ground was being broken. As a result, consideration was given to many facets other than those now included. Of these, the following features merit particular mention:

Freeboard. The positioning and actual measurement of freeboard for the purposes of a specification, did present difficulties when attempting to cover the wide variation of boat form known to be available. However, the conclusion reached was that the compartmentation and stability requirements proposed, together with the imposed limit on carrying capacity, rendered the specific measurement of freeboard unnecessary.

Sailing. The committee thought to include sail propulsion on an equal footing with that of manual and motor propulsion. Unfortunately, little experience is available in the design or handling of such craft. In view of this, the known vagaries of wind action and the imponderables of hull form, the committee felt that the adoption of a reliable test of comparative performance, where sail was the *primary means* of propulsion, could not be included in the present edition. However, it is to be hoped that future development and experience will eventually enable the committee to take appropriate account of this feature.

This standard makes reference to the following British Standards:

BS 903, *Methods of testing vulcanized rubber*.

BS 903-A16, *The resistance of vulcanized rubber to liquids*.

BS 903-A23, *Determination of resistance to ozone cracking under static conditions*.

BS 1088, *Plywood for marine craft*.

BS 1204, *Synthetic resin adhesives (phenolic and aminoplastic) for wood*.

BS 2087, *Chemical requirements for textiles treated by certain preservative processes*.

BS 2782, *Methods of testing plastics*.

BS 3396, *Woven glass fibre fabrics for plastics reinforcements*.

BS 3424, *Methods of test for coated fabrics*.

BS 3496, *Glass fibre chopped strand mat for the reinforcement of polyester resin systems*.

BS 3532, *Unsaturated polyester resin systems for low pressure fibre reinforced plastics.*

BS 3534, *Epoxide resin systems for glass fibre reinforced plastics.*

BS 3691, *Glass fibre rovings for the reinforcement of polyester and epoxide resin systems.*

BS 3702, *Method of test for the resistance of a fabric to surface wetting (spray test).*

BS 3749, *Woven glass fibre rovings fabrics for the reinforcement of polyester resin systems.*

BS 2F 100, *Inspection and testing procedures, and certain basic requirements for textiles for aeronautical purposes.*

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.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to iv, pages 1 to 12, 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.

