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Second edition  
2012-11-01

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## Immersion suits —

Part 2:

### Abandonment suits, requirements including safety

*Combinaisons de protection thermique en cas d'immersion —*

*Partie 2: Combinaisons d'abandon, exigences y compris la sécurité*



Reference number  
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ISO copyright office  
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11  
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47  
E-mail [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Web [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

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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 15027-2 was prepared by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 162, *Protective clothing including hand and arm protection and lifejackets*, in collaboration with Technical Committee ISO/TC 188, *Small craft*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Personal safety equipment*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 15027-2:2002), which has been technically revised. The main technical changes are:

- a) addition of terms and definitions from ISO 15027-1:2012;
- b) revision of requirements for buddy lines;
- c) revision of requirements regarding conspicuity;
- d) addition of Clause 6 "Information supplied by the manufacturer";
- e) revision of consumer information label;
- f) revision of requirements regarding thermal protection in water.

ISO 15027 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Immersion suits*:

- *Part 1: Constant wear suits, requirements including safety*
- *Part 2: Abandonment suits, requirements including safety*
- *Part 3: Test methods*

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## Introduction

This part of ISO 15027 has been prepared to meet the needs of persons engaged in certain activities on or near water. Abandonment suits manufactured and maintained according to this part of ISO 15027 will provide protection from cold shock and delay the onset of hypothermia.

The complete immersion system (suit and clothes worn under the suit) should be able to keep the user alive long enough for the rescue services to find and recover them. An individual's estimated thermal protection time will depend on water temperature and wave state as well as their physiology. Detailed in this part of ISO 15027 are the minimum recommended insulation levels and the associated water temperatures in which they are to be used.

This part of ISO 15027 is intended to serve as a minimum performance requirement for manufacturers, purchasers and users of such safety equipment and seeks to ensure that the equipment provides effective performance in use. The abandonment suit should not jeopardize safety by causing undue discomfort which could result in a degradation of performance.

The abandonment suit shall have no features which will be likely to have any detrimental effect on the operation of other life-saving equipment that may be used. In particular, any part of the suit which might pose a snagging hazard shall be suitably covered, protected or restrained.

The primary aims in wearing an abandonment suit are:

- a) to reduce the risk of cold shock and delay the onset of hypothermia;
- b) to enable the user to propel himself in the water and extricate himself from the water without it becoming an encumbrance;
- c) to make the user sufficiently conspicuous in the water so as to aid his recovery.

Many circumstances may alter the performance of the suit, such as wave action or the wearing of additional equipment. Users, owners and employers should ensure that equipment is correctly maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.

An abandonment suit may often be worn with a lifejacket as it will provide extra flotation and may help to bring a user to a face-up position.