



**CO-ORDINATION OF NOTIFIED BODIES**  
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**RECOMMENDATION FOR USE**

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Question related to  PPE Regulation

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EN ISO 12402-9:2020

Clause 5.5.12

Key words:

EN ISO 12402-9:2020; 5.5.12; V-factor

Question:

When should the testing in Clause 5.5.12 Buoyancy testing for inherently buoyant material, of EN ISO 12402-9:2020 be conducted?

Solution:

Clause 5.5.12 is designed to simulate the effect of ageing on inherently buoyant material where foams of different V-factor are used on the front and back of the PFD.

The testing was developed from UL 1123 and from which 2 exceptions were missed in EN ISO 12402-9:2020 under which circumstances the test is to be used.

UL 1123 Clause 19, Loss distribution test states "19.2.1 *In lieu of compliance with the requirements of 5.6 or 19.1.1, or both, a sample of the device may be altered in accordance with 19.2.2 and tested in accordance with Flotation Stability Test, Section 16.*".

Clause 5.6 of UL1123 states "5.6 *For a wearable device, the V factor (as determined in accordance with the Standard for Components for Personal Flotation Devices, UL 1191) of foam forward of the body axis (see Figure 16.1) shall be not more than 2 points less than the V factor of foam aft of the body axis.*".

Clause 19.1.1 of UL1123 states "19.1.1 *At least 50 percent of the total buoyancy of a wearable device for which the buoyancy is provided by foam shall be forward of the body axis.*".

Therefore Clause 5.5.12 of EN ISO 12402-9:2020 is only required to be conducted where a PFD has either:

- a) Less than 50% of the buoyancy forward of the body axis; or
- b) Foam forward of the body axis is 2 V-factor points less than the foam aft of the body axis.