



April 5, 2007

**Subject: Lifejackets, PFD, Marine Abandonment Immersion Suits, Constant Wear Immersion Suits and Helicopter Passenger Transportation Suit Standards**

Dear Colleagues,

Many of us attended the Ad Hoc Lifejacket/Immersion suit meeting in Ottawa on November 7, 2006. From my perspective, in these last 6 months our community has made very little progress in addressing the issues discussed at that meeting.

After discussions with many of you regarding our standards, I agree that the last few years have been challenging to say the least. I believe that many of these challenges originated as a result of our standards being incomplete, incorrect, unclear, and confusing (No offence is intended towards those who have struggled working on these standards, this is our own doing). Consequently, getting products approved to our standards has caused difficulties for everyone, i.e. manufacturers, testers, and regulators. I believe that good, clear, and appropriate performance standards will provide each of these groups with clear requirements that translate into better protection and safety for the end users.

I have been actively involved with our CGSB standards for over 20 years. With leadership, commitment, and hard work from the committees, we have produced some excellent standards that have been copied internationally. These exceptional standards have led to the design and production of some innovative and outstanding lifesaving products. In contrast, I have also been around long enough to have seen what happens when the standards are unclear and confusing: 1) we all struggle through difficult, time consuming, costly, and dissatisfying approval processes, and 2) the playing field becomes unequal.

Due to the nature of CORD's work, we are knowledgeable about the technical requirements and are intimate with the application of our standards. As well, we also work and communicate frequently with many of you. Therefore, we have taken the liberty to summarize some major areas of concern related to our standards, and have provided proposed actions for resolutions. Please see the attached document for this list.

It is my opinion that the Canadian community wants to provide the highest quality products and level of protection possible to our end users. Although everyone in our community has had their own challenges, resolving these issues requires us to act together and collectively address the current state of our committees, and our standards. Currently, our committees have no Chairpersons, therefore electing the chair positions and establishing leadership for our committees is a high priority in moving forward with our standards.

---

To stimulate the forward progress of our CGSB standards, CORD is offering to host a meeting to prioritize the listed issues, develop action plans for each standard, and set target dates for resolutions.

I propose we hold a meeting prior to CMAC at CORD in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia on Tuesday, April 24, 2007. I would also be open to planning the morning of Wednesday, April 25, 2007 for additional meeting time and leaving the afternoon for a “Hands On” experience, CORD’s specialty! Survival Systems Limited has already offered the new Survival Training Simulation Theatre (designed to make you feel like you are at sea, without actually going to sea) for our use during this meeting. In addition, CORD’s cold wave tank, climate chambers, and manikins (TIM and RAMM) will also be available for those who wish to try out their ideas.

I would appreciate any and all feedback, and expressions of interests. Feel free to forward this to anyone you feel would be interested. You may contact me directly at (902) 465-5535, or by email: [ppotter@cordgroup.ca](mailto:ppotter@cordgroup.ca). Updates regarding the meeting will be posted on our website at [www.cordgroup.ca](http://www.cordgroup.ca).

Yours sincerely



Paul Potter  
President, The CORD Group Limited

---



**The CORD Group Limited Summary of Standards Issues**  
**April 5, 2007**

<b>Lifejackets/PFD's</b>			
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Action</b>
Standards organization selection	Deliver the proposals to the working group and begin decision making process	Needs to proceed concurrently with the rest of the identified issues on this list	
Status of Proposed 2,5,and 10 yr plan for Canadian lifejacket/PFD standard	Nov 2006 meeting-acceptance of plan, no action to date	Committee work/Working groups/Research	
US alignment and device reclassification system	Part of 2,5,10 yr plan for device classification system and performance criteria	Need to determine our position	
Carderock Update, Feb 2007	CORD participated with USCG and PFDMA pioneering work about PFD/Lifejacket performance in waves	N/A	
Manikins	RAMM, BAMBI, SWIM	Validation and use in dynamic conditions	
Concioius Body Position	Questions about how concious people act in waves, different water temperatures, different levels of clothing protection	Committee work/Working groups/Research	The CORD Group Limited/Dalhousie University proposal
Infant PDF/Lifejacket standard	Status of Current work	update	Chris Brooks
<b>Immersion Suits</b>			
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Action</b>
Category 2 Constant wear Immersion Suits	There are suits being approved as constant wear suits, need to develop the requirements for the Category 2 constant wear immersion suits	Develop Category 2 Requirements Committee work/Working groups/Research	
Thermal Protection	Test conditions, hand measurement requirements	Committee work/Working groups/Research	
Aged suits	Inspection Cycles/Life expectancy	Committee work/Working groups/Research	
Donning issues	Requirements and Test methods	Committee work/Working groups/Research	
Water Ingress	The CORD Group Limited recently completed research requested by Committee in May 2005	Committee work/Working groups/Research	Distribute TC TP report and CORD phase 2 proposal
Address additional errors in the CAN/CGSB-65.16-2005 standard	Many smaller mistakes in CAN/CGSB-65.16-2005 (references, typos, etc.)	Committee work/Working groups/Research	The CORD Group Limited Proposal
Naïve Subjects and Safety	Concern over using untrained subjects for 4.5 m jumps	Committee work/Working groups/Research	
<b>Helicopter Passenger Transportation Suits</b>			
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Action</b>
Maximum Escape Buoyancy	Suits approved to both CAN/CGSB-65.16-2005 and CAN/CGSB-65.17-99 have potential to be excessively buoyant upon immersion	Committee work/Working groups/Research	Research Project-The CORD Group Limited currently has a proposal that has been circulated for financial support.
Maximum Escape Buoyancy	Wording in the standard, not the intent to permit tests to be conducted in swim suits	Committee work/Working groups/Research	
Donning	no need for donning requirments in the hpts standards	Committee work/Working groups/Research	
Buoyancy Chair	The CORD Group Limited is developing a new buoyancy chair technology in conjunction with the US Navy	Committee work/Working groups/Research	
Water Ingress	The CORD Group Limited recently completed research requested by Committee in May 2005	Committee work/Working groups/Research	The CORD Group Limited phase 2 proposal
Temperature cycling/cold donning	Applicability to helicopter suits	Committee work/Working groups/Research	