

# Marine Safety Flash

## A14-09 (30<sup>th</sup> June)



### Personal Flotation Device fails to automatically inflate

#### Incident Overview

On June 7, 2014 a worker fell approximately 4 metres from the lower landing of an offshore platform into the sea. He was retrieved from the water without delay by the crew on a supporting transfer vessel and transferred to the site clinic for medical treatment.



Photograph of PFD similar to item worn by worker.

#### Key Findings

The worker was wearing a Type 1 Inflatable Personal Flotation Device (PFD). The PFD did not automatically inflate on contact with water despite being equipped with this capability. Inspection of the PFD after the incident identified that the gas canister was not fully screwed into the inflation tube fitting.

A separate recent event at a contractor-operated marine facility highlighted a similar case of a lifejacket not automatically inflating after a worker fell from a barge. It was identified that the gas canister was not fully tightened.

#### Recommendations

Recommendations for sites using similar inflatable lifejackets:

- Ensure routine inspections are conducted on equipment to confirm gas canisters are installed and ready for use in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- Ensure crews that use inflatable lifejackets are trained and familiar with their use.