



A message about lifejackets

There wouldn't be many pilots who don't have a quiet word with their engine each time they leave the relative safety of dry land. Of course, the engine doesn't know it's flying over water (unless you just told it) but that said, how well equipped are you if the worst did happen? KiwiFlyer recently spoke with Lloyd Klee of Aviation Safety about lifejacket options.

LLOYD KLEE is an avid fan of constant wear inflatable lifejackets. Having found the task nearly impossible when trying it for himself, he challenges anyone to put a waist belt type of lifejacket over their head and then inflate it while treading water. Just as impractical too, is the thought of landing your aircraft on the water, getting the lifejacket from under the seat, putting it on and then leaving the aircraft safely, especially if there are passengers involved. The responsible answer is to invest in a set of constant wear inflatable lifejackets for yourself and passengers.

Aircraft approved constant wear inflatable lifejackets are always manually activated by a "pull to inflate" tab. Water inflated lifejackets should never be used within an aircraft as you may not be able to get out in the event of a ditching. Baltic lifejackets that meet NZ CAA rules and Switlik FAA approved jackets are normally carried ex stock by Aviation Safety Supplies Limited. Constant wear lifejackets for children are also held in stock.

Switlik jackets come in three styles, some of which have pockets for safety and survival equipment. They are dual tube and meet TSO rules. Baltic lifejackets are imported from Sweden complete with a lifejacket light. They are extremely comfortable and use a zip enclosure that automatically opens when the lifejacket is inflated via the CO2 cylinder. These are very reliable but should be serviced at required intervals by an approved service station. Contact Lloyd for more information by phone or email using the details below.

When inflated the lifejackets will roll you onto your back as long as you are wearing normal clothing. They all have an oral inflation tube that is also used to deflate the lifejacket after use. Inflatable lifejackets can be reused and generally should be replaced after 10-12 years though Lloyd has seen some that are 20 years old and still technically serviceable.

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