

## Life Jacket Storage Advisory

A cool dry place is always the ideal situation for a life jacket in storage. If you cannot manage to put them in an air-conditioned area, a lifejacket storage box outside is the next best thing.

If necessity requires overhead storage in outside areas, please be aware of these problems:

- 1) **Compression:** the flotation foam used in lifejackets will permanently dent and deform if put in a bind, and can result in loss of buoyancy. Straps, cords, slats, etc. used to hold life jackets up to the ceiling may eventually gouge them, especially if pressure is used. Add to this the summertime heat (especially on steel decking) and all sorts of things can happen: the plastic material begins to flow, reflectors slide off, and vinyl-coated lifejackets fuse together. Cramming jackets together in a haphazard manner can have similar results, so always stack lifejackets neatly and not too high.
- 2) **A dirty environment:** diesel exhaust, dirt, deck, wash, vermin, etc. will also take their toll on your lifejacket investment.
- 3) **Sunlight:** including that reflected from the water can eventually fade fabric-covered lifejackets. Try shielding the jacket from light or at least rotating them to prolong their life when stored in outside areas.