

3M™ Versaflo™ M-Series Expected Life

The 3M™ Versaflo™ M-300 (M-307, M-307 & M-307CAP) and M-400 (M-406 & M-407) helmets have been tested to meet the performance requirements of AS/NZS 1801:1997 which has the same test criteria as AS/NZS:1801:2024.

The service life of any industrial safety helmet is addressed in Australian Standard AS/NZS 1800:1998: “Occupational protective helmets – Selection, care and use”. Section 3.4 specifically addresses the working life of compliant helmets.

Briefly, AS/NZS 1800:1998 Section 3.4 says “Field tests have shown that generally, helmet shells have a life of at least 3 years from the time of issue. Components of harnesses may deteriorate more rapidly in service and harnesses should, therefore, be replaced at intervals not longer than 2 years.

For helmets that are used infrequently and stored away from sunlight, dirt and temperature extremes, this guideline/recommendation may not be applicable. The user should examine the helmet regulatory and discard if any damage is evident.

Conversely, helmets that are used in extreme conditions of temperature or poorly stored, may need to be replaced more frequently.”

There are no specific guidelines given in the Standard for a maximum shelf life before a new helmet needs to be issued. They should be stored away from sunlight, dirt and temperature extremes, before and after issue. There is obviously some point at which a stored helmet shell should not be used, but this is not specified. This is determined by the workplace specific to their situation.

The 3M™ Versaflo™ M-Series User Instructions which covers the M-200, M-300 & M-400 recommends a maximum life (shelf life plus in use life) of 5 years from the date of manufacture. See excerpt below with further details.

Expected Life

Prior to first use the product should be stored unopened in its original package in accordance with the recommended storage conditions. Once the product is removed from its original packaging, the “in use” or operational life will vary with frequency and conditions of use. Headgear subjected to more wear and tear or use outdoors in direct sunlight may need to be replaced more frequently than headgear used indoors. Inspect M-Series Headgear prior to each use as directed in the “Inspection and Maintenance” section of these User Instructions. Any product showing signs of damage should be removed from use and serviced or replaced as appropriate. See the “Listing of Components, Accessories, and Replacement Parts” section of these User Instructions for more information on available spare parts. 3M recommends a maximum life (shelf life plus in use life) of 5 years from the date of manufacture. Most plastic components have a “molded in” date of manufacture and must be replaced as described above regardless of outward appearance.

Spare Parts and Accessories for the 3M™ Versaflo™ M-Series can be found in the documents linked below and the corresponding M-Series product 3M Australia (linked to https://www.3m.com.au/3M/en_AU/p/d/b5005486006/) and 3M New Zealand (linked to https://www.3mz.co.nz/3M/en_NZ/p/d/b5005486006/) web pages

- 3M Australia & New Zealand Personal Safety Division Catalogue (Hyper link to <http://go.3M.com/QR-CAT-FULL>)
- 3M Australia & New Zealand Personal Safety Division Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR) Catalogue Section (linked to <http://go.3M.com/QR-CAT-PAPR>)
- 3M™ Versaflo™ M-200 Accessories & Spares (Linked to <https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/2609463O/versaflo-m-200-accessories-spares-and-options-page-anz.pdf>)
- 3M™ Versaflo™ M-300 Accessories & Spares (Linked to <https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/2609464O/versaflo-m-300-accessories-spares-and-options-page-anz.pdf>)
- 3M™ Versaflo™ M-400 Accessories & Spares (Linked to <https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/2609465O/versaflo-m-400-accessories-spares-and-options-page-anz.pdf>)

Care & Maintenance guidelines for the 3M™ Versaflo™ M-Series can be found in the documents linked below and the corresponding M-Series product 3M Australia (linked to https://www.3m.com.au/3M/en_AU/p/d/b5005486006/) and 3M New Zealand (linked to https://www.3mz.co.nz/3M/en_NZ/p/d/b5005486006/) web pages

- 3M™ Versaflo™ M-Series Care, Maintenance and Cleaning Procedures (Linked to <https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/24143450/care-maintenance-and-cleaning-procedures-for-3m-versaflo-faceshields-and-helmets-m-series.pdf>)
- 3M™ Versaflo™ M-200 Care & Maintenance Flyer (linked to <https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/25830630/3m-versaflo-faceshields-m-200-series-care-and-maintenance-guide-flyer-anz.pdf>)
- 3M™ Versaflo™ M-300 Care & Maintenance Flyer (linked to <https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/25830640/3m-versaflo-m-300-series-helmets-care-and-maintenance-guide-flyer-anz.pdf>)
- 3M™ Versaflo™ M-400 Care & Maintenance Flyer (linked to <https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/25830650/3m-versaflo-m-400-series-helmets-care-and-maintenance-guide-flyer-anz.pdf>)



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