

CREWSAVER SERVICING AND MAINTENANCE BULLETIN No. 3

ISSUED TO: Retail Outlets and Agents

DATE: 20th May 2002

SUBJECT: Tightness of cylinders on
Inflatable Lifejackets.

We wish to draw your attention to the necessity of checking the tightness of gas cylinders on inflatable lifejackets. It has been found in certain situations, particularly where the lifejacket is worn for prolonged periods, that the gas cylinder may loosen in the thread of the operating head. It is then possible for the gas cylinder to further unscrew to a point where it may not be pierced when the inflation head is activated.

This servicing circular covers all types of operating heads fitted to lifejackets, including the Hammar Automatic and Manual systems, and requires the following actions:

1. When servicing or rearming a lifejacket the cylinder must be very firmly tightened into the head. The head should be checked for any damage or splitting following this tightening.
2. It is important that your customers are reminded that they should regularly check their lifejackets for the tightness of the gas cylinder. Depending upon the level of use this may be a daily requirement. This check may be one of a number of checks required to ensure that the jacket is fully operational, e.g. has the inflation head been fired, has the cover been damaged, etc.

The loosening may occur with all lifejacket types but there are a number of factors that make a lifejacket more susceptible:

1. Frequency and duration of use.
2. Activity level of the individual wearing the jacket.
3. Lifejackets using 60 gram cylinders due to the increased diameter.
4. Lifejackets with Hammar inflators due to the higher frictional resistance of the internal polyurethane coating.

These factors should be taken into account when planning the frequency of the checking.

Norman Kitching
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20th May 2002