



SAFETY ALERT

VIKING Life-saving Equipment A/S has been made aware of a potential problem with Hammar inflators manufactured before 2006.

During 2005 Hammar upgraded the sealing ring in their inflators with a new art raw material. A small number of sealing rings manufactured before 2006 have suffered premature material degradation, most likely after exposure to high temperature and high humidity. The sealing ring might become stiffer, change colour and in severe cases cracking of the plastic may occur. The degradation does not occur overnight and can be detected at the recommended service overhaul.

Hammar has the following comments:

- This is not a recall, it's a Safety Alert with a strong recommendation of the importance of checking and servicing inflatable lifejacket!
- So far less than 0,00032% of the supplied sealing rings in the period 1999-June 2005 have been reported back to Hammar with a premature degraded sealing ring.
- All reported premature degraded sealing rings have been detected in regular service. No hazardous incidents have been reported to Hammar. A leaking sealing ring will not cause an inflated life jacket to lose all its buoyancy; it will reduce it down to a state of equilibrium.
- Based on the information gathered by Hammar the most likely cause of the premature degradation of the PU sealing ring is exposure to a combination of high temperature and high humidity.

Following actions has been taken by Hammar:

- Safety alert adverts in English, German and French in professional and recreational magazines.
- Adverts for web media communication.
- Press releases in English, German and French for all types of media and authorities.
- Change in our website and service instructions. English update ready in early September. German and French inflator pages will be ready in October.
- Video film with detailed instructions on how to disassemble the inflator, check the sealing ring and assemble inflator again. An English speaker voice is ready and German and French will follow in October.
- The Swedish Consumer Authorities have been informed and their guidelines for Safety Alerts have been followed carefully. The GPSD is entered through their website and all Consumer Authorities in the countries where CM Hammar have lifejacket manufacturers are then automatically informed.
- The Swedish Marine Authority – Transportstyrelsen – has been informed and has confirmed the action to distribute the Safety Alert in their network.
- Our Notified Body – Fleetwood Testing Institute – has been informed and they have acknowledged our actions and the wording in our Safety Alert and advertising.
- MCA in UK has been informed and has acknowledged the Safety Alert.

VIKING recommends all VIKING life jackets with Hammar inflators manufactured before 2006 to be sent to an authorized servicing station for overhaul. For further information please see the Hammar homepage www.cmhammar.se