



United States Coast Guard

Marine Inspection Office Europe



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Counterfeit Hammar H2O Hydrostatic Release Units

The purpose of this USCG Activities Europe Advisory is to provide guidance on identifying genuine Hammar H2O hydrostatic release units and information on contacting Hammar with questions or concerns. The Swedish Maritime Safety Inspectorate recently contacted the USCG to report that fake copies of these hydrostatic release units had been detected. The manufacturer has advised that to the untrained eye, the copy is almost identical to the original product, including the Hammar logo and address on the labels. Tests of these fake units, carried out by Hammar, have confirmed that they are inoperative and WILL NOT release a life raft or an EPIRB in an emergency.

Hammar has provided the following guidance for verifying the authenticity of an original Hammar H2O.

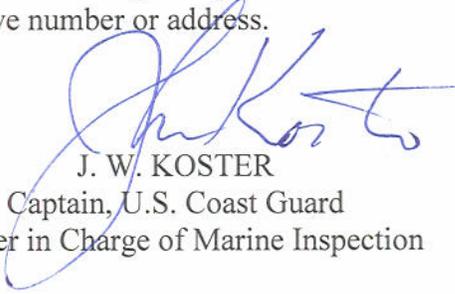
- Always purchase products through approved distributors or authorized service points for life rafts and EPIRBS.
- Make sure that you receive the Hammar multilingual product manual and a raft label with each unit for life raft H2O or Hammar marking instruction for EPIRB H2O.
- If you check on the underside of the Hammar H2O you should be able to find 5 (five) fabrication marks on all units produced since April 2006. Units produced before that date have only 2 (two) fabrication marks.
- The serial number and production date can always be verified by contacting CM Hammar at info@cmhammar.com.
- The fabrication mark on the upper side of the unit must always point directly towards the rope.

Additional information, including images, can be found at <http://www.cmhammar.com/News.aspx>. For questions or comments relating to this product Hammar can be contacted by using the information provided below.

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Hydrostatic release units installed on board U.S. registered vessels are required to be Coast Guard approved. The unit is required to bear the Coast Guard approval number. Coast Guard approved lifesaving equipment can be verified at the United States Coast Guard Maritime Information Exchange (CGMIX) by going to <http://cgmix.uscg.mil/Default.aspx> and selecting USCG Approved Equipment.

For additional information or clarification regarding this Marine Safety Bulletin, please contact Lieutenant Corydon Heard at the above number or address.



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