



TECHNICAL ALERT No. 15-10

Refurbished "HAMMAR" Hydrostatic Release Units (HRU)

1. Introduction

- 1.1. A new Marine Notice has been issued by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).
- 1.2. The Bahamas Maritime Authority wishes to bring the information referenced in Paragraph 1.1 to the attention of interested parties¹. The AMSA Marine Notice may be found in the Annex to this Technical Alert.

2. Details of Alert

- 2.1. The AMSA Marine Notice highlights cases where "HAMMAR H20" Hydrostatic Release Units (HRU's) have been refurbished by unauthorised agents and re-sold as new, genuine units.
- 2.2. Guidance is given in the AMSA Marine Notice on identifying genuine HAMMAR H20 HRU's.
- 2.3. Owners and managers of Bahamian ships should bring the AMSA Marine Notice to the attention of their crews to assist in preventing such refurbished HRU's being supplied and installed on their ships.

3. Validity

- 3.1. This alert is valid until further notice.

4. Revision History

Rev.0 (20 February 2015) – First issue

¹ This Technical Alert is provided by the Bahamas Maritime Authority with the aim of highlighting incidents, lessons learnt and to increase awareness, which may help avoid similar incidents occurring elsewhere. Any queries on the content of the information provided should be referred to the party providing the information.

Annex



Marine Notice 02/2015

Refurbished 'HAMMAR' Hydrostatic Release Units (HRU)

The purpose of this notice is to notify ship owners and operators the existence of refurbished Hammar H20 Hydrostatic Release Units (HRU) that have been provided on a number of ships for use with liferafts.

AMSA understands that time-expired Hammar H20 HRUs are being refurbished and re-sold as new, genuine units by un-authorized agents.

The refurbished HRUs have had their genuine labels removed and substandard labels affixed. These labels were observed to erode away within a short time from installation.

If such a unit is discovered on board it should be replaced immediately.

Hydrostatic Release Unit Operation

The Hydrostatic Release Unit (HRU) is designed and approved to automatically deploy a liferaft or EPIRB in the event of a ship sinking if the liferaft or EPIRB has not already been manually launched / deployed.

The manufacturer, HAMMAR, state the H20 HRU is to be disposed of at the end of its 2 year service life. By putting a time expired H20 HRU back into service, there is no guarantee that the unit will operate as required in the event of a ship sinking. This poses a serious risk to safety.

Identify, procure and maintain a genuine HRU

In order to ensure the safety of ships and the persons on board, ship owners and ship operators are encouraged to ensure that only genuine HRU's from authorised distributors or service agents are procured.

The following information may assist to identify genuine HAMMAR H20 HRU's

All Hammar H20 items produced after 24.02.2009 include a unique 'Holospot' security marking to help distinguish the genuine Hammar device from dangerous fake or refurbished units. In addition the serial number and production date have been moved next to the Holospot security marking.

- The Holospot shimmers in rainbow colours when put under direct light.
- The alphanumeric code is different on each product.
- The serial number and production date can be found to the left of the Holospot®.



Further details and information on how to contact the manufacturer where concerns are raised regarding the authenticity of a product can be obtained from the manufacturer's website - www.cmhammar.com/news

Gary Prosser
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