



DAILY TIP #1

Over the years our Service Stations have serviced many thousands of inflatable lifejackets and our engineers have accumulated a comprehensive knowledge base of the faults that we regularly find when first opening a lifejacket for inspection. Alarming, a significant percentage of these lifejackets simply would not work and here, we are only talking about the lifejackets that *visibly look okay on the outside and the client is not aware of any problem.*

So today as our “Lifejacket Information Tip” of the day we have asked our Service Team to list their **top 5 faults that they come across** when initially opening a jacket for inspection. Here is how they reported:

FAULT	RESULT	REMEDY
	<p>1. Gas cylinder is loose. The lifejacket would either not or only partially inflate.</p>	<p>Regularly check that the gas cylinder is firmly tight.</p>
	<p>2. The gas cylinder has been fired. The lifejacket would not inflate.</p>	<p>Never re-pack a lifejacket which has been deployed without first re-servicing it. This will prevent it being confused with your good lifejacket.</p>
	<p>3. The gas cylinder or operating head are simply missing. The lifejacket would not inflate.</p>	<p>Always do a routine check to see all components are in place and in good condition.</p>
	<p>4. The lifejacket has never been checked and often up to 10 years old. The lifejacket would probably not inflate.</p>	<p>Ensure you lifejacket is serviced regularly and complete routine self checks to ensure all is in order.</p>
	<p>5. The client believes he has an automatic lifejacket when in fact it is a manual. Particularly dangerous for a non-swimmers or if a victim falls into the water in an unconscious state.</p>	<p>Clearly mark your lifejackets as manual and automatic and be aware when mixed together.</p>

Please be aware that this is only our TOP 5 FAULTS and not a complete list, so please always take good care and check your lifejackets regularly.



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DAILY TIP #2

Lifejacket servicing - understand what is involved and the importance of self-checks.

Manufacturers, safety bodies, training institutes and the RNLI are among those who universally recommend the **regular servicing of lifejackets**. Here we explain some of the procedures and standards involved in completing approved servicing.



Training

Our staff are trained and certified by each individual manufacturer according to that company's individual standards. Training is onsite at the manufacturer's premises and the resulting certification

is normally valid for 2-3 years.



Premises

Our premises are approved and regularly inspected by both the DTTAS and by each manufacturer. The majority of our service stations hold SOLAS approval, which is the requirement to

certify any lifejacket holding SOLAS approval. Being an approved service station guarantees that your lifejacket is checked in a controlled environment.



Equipment

The equipment used is regularly calibrated and serviced. Items of interest in this section include compressors with water filters, ensuring clean air enters bladders, manometer, deflators,

torque spanners, tools and calibrated weighing scales.



SAMS

All lifejackets being processed through our service procedures are controlled and managed by SAMS, our in-house asset management system. Here, all

details and procedures associated with your lifejacket and its status are recorded through this cloud based program. Customers have access to their own online control panel and notifications are sent by text and e-mail of impending service due or expiry dates.



Quality Control

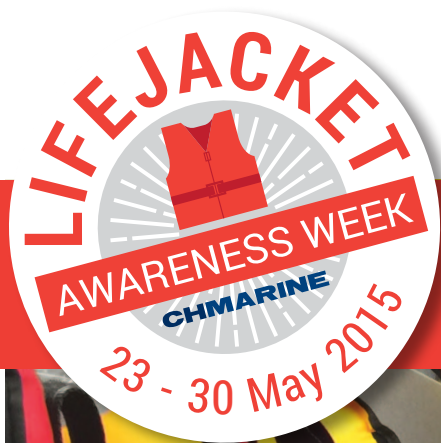
All procedures in the company operate under ISO 9001:2008 Reg. No 198-1 Issue 2.

The Service

Servicing involves a procedure of events including:

- Timed and pressure monitored, inflation in a temperature controlled environment
- Check and weighing of cylinder
- Check of operating head
- Check of deflation valve
- Pressure relief valve check (SOLAS only)
- Inspection of seals and welds around operating head
- Inspection of all belts, buckles, whistle, crotch strap and harnesses
- General clean
- Re-pack
- Check and inspection of spray hoods, lights and beacons, if fitted.





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So what should I expect of my serviced lifejacket?

Your jacket will be tested and certified to be in perfect working condition and in the same condition as if the lifejacket was supplied as new. It is important to remember that this is not a 12 month guarantee as its condition is directly related to the events which happen to it after it leaves our premises. The certificate is dated for 12 months, which is the next recommended full service due date, however it is essential that regular self checks are made to the lifejacket throughout the year to ensure the continued safe functioning of your life jacket. Should anything happen to your jacket which leaves you unsure, it is recommended that you have your jacket re-serviced.

For more on **lifejacket self-checks**, please [click here](#) and take a look at the excellent lifejacket maintenance guide issued by renowned Swedish lifejacket manufacturer, BALTIC.

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DAILY TIP #3

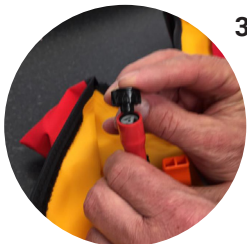
Re-arming a lifejacket that has been deployed - a few things we feel are important to note. Re-arming a lifejacket is not difficult but here are some things to check for, particularly if it was deployed:



1. **Did the bladder maintain its pressure?** If in doubt either submit your lifejacket for a full service or re-inflate and thoroughly check for no leaks.



2. **De-flate your lifejacket in the correct manner.** It is vitally important to only deflate your lifejacket by using the reverse end of the oral tube cap to depress the non-return valve. Why? Using any other object or method could cause damage to the non-return valve in the oral inflation tube and cause it to fail or loose air in the next deployment.



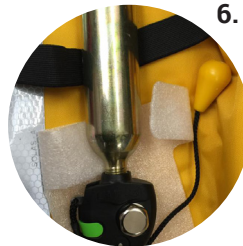
3. **Check that the non-return valve is fully closed.** This is done by gently depressing the valve with your finger and ensuring it springs back to the closed position.



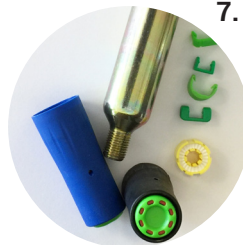
4. **Always replace the cap on the oral inflation tube.** This protects the valve against dirt and damage and it can also assist in the event of any problems with the valve.



5. **Check the size of the replacement cylinder is correct for your jacket.** These days a wider range of cylinders sizes are available to suit the many different styles of jacket out there - they range from 16gr to 60 gr, so check the cylinder matches the one being taken out or check against the information normally printed on the inside of the jacket.



6. **Always remove the fired operating head before fitting a new gas cylinder.** Why? Because a deployed firing head will still have the firing pin extended and consequently will pierce the replacement gas cylinder as it is being fitted, or worse it could cause minor perforation of the gas cylinder causing an unnoticed loss of the gas. As a secondary issue, repeated insertions of the gas cylinder with the extended pin can ultimate damage the firing pin.



7. **Fit the replacement parts in this sequence:**
 - 1/ Remove old firing head
 - 2/ Remove old gas cylinder
 - 3/ Fit new manual override lever clip (green clip)
 - 4/ Fit new operating head
 - 5/ Fit new cylinder and screw firmly tight

8. **Fold and pack the bladder correctly.** Packing instructions can normally be found printed inside the jacket or on a separate tag. It is important to fold correctly to avoid creating excess crease points which could become wear points.