

IMCA Safety Flash 08/02

July 2002

These flashes summarise key safety matters and incidents, allowing wider dissemination of lessons learned from them. The information below has been provided in good faith by members and should be reviewed individually by recipients, who will determine its relevance to their own operations.

The effectiveness of the IMCA safety flash system depends on receiving reports from members in order to pass on information and avoid repeat incidents. Please consider adding the IMCA secretariat (imca@imca-int.com) to your internal distribution list for safety alerts and/or manually submitting information on specific incidents you consider may be relevant. All information will be anonymised or sanitised, as appropriate.

A number of other organisations issue safety flashes and similar documents which may be of interest to IMCA members. Where these are particularly relevant, these may be summarised or highlighted here. Links to known relevant websites are provided at www.imca-int.com/links. Additional links should be submitted to webmaster@imca-int.com

I Update on DSI Air Helmets – Leakage of Water into Regulator

Members were advised of this potential hazard in Safety Flash 04/02. We have now been passed a copy of the notice copied overleaf, which details the products and part numbers affected.



Kirby Morgan Dive Systems, Inc.
 425 Garden Street
 Santa Barbara, California 93101
 Telephone (805) 966-8538 Fax (805) 966-5761
 Email info@KMDSI.com Web www.KMDSI.com



CAUTION Bulletin
Number 1 of 2002
July 08, 2002

Subject: Use of Lubricants on Regulator Exhaust Valve P/N 510-552
Products Affected: KMDSI Part #510-552

The use of lubricants of any type (i.e., silicone grease, or similar) on molded silicone rubber parts such as exhaust valves or diaphragms, **must be avoided.**

Use of such compounds can deteriorate the physical properties of the components. In addition, lubricants can attract and hold debris that may cause a valve to leak. Also, the same practice applies for the diaphragm.



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CAUTION Bulletin
Number 2 of 2002
July 8, 2002

Subject: Regulator Exhaust Valve Possible Leakage
Products Affected: KMDSI Part #510-552, 305-175, 325-323, 325-325, 505-026, 505-027, 505-068, 505-069, 525-120, 525-255, 525-309

KMDSI presently uses Part #510-552, Regulator Exhaust Valve, identified by part # 510-552 and a mold cavity number molded into the valve. These valves have recently been re-tested and found to have the potential to leak slightly in certain positions.
This is not a life-threatening situation.

Please advise KMDSI no later than July 15, 2002, what quantity you have in stock of Part #510-552, Regulator Exhaust Valve, which matches the description (having both the part number 510-552 and a mold cavity number). They will be replaced with Part #510-552 non-marked valves.

Customers experiencing abnormally wet conditions in demand regulators in any Kirby Morgan helmets or band masks should perform an inspection in accordance with the following steps:

1. Remove the demand regulator from the helmet or mask in accordance with the applicable Kirby Morgan Operations and Maintenance Manual.
2. Remove the exhaust whisker, allowing inspection of the regulator exhaust valve and its seating area.
3. Check to make sure there is no lubricant or foreign substance on the valve or valve seating area.
4. Inspect the valve seating area and the crossbars that hold the valve in place. Make sure that the seating area is clean, flat, and that the crossbars are not bent. Crossbars that are bent, especially unevenly, will cause the valve to have more
5. Straighten the crossbars and clean the valve seat area if necessary. Then install a new replacement valve, Part #510-552 (unmarked). If the diaphragm has been lubricated, carefully clean it with a solution of mild soap and water. Inspect diaphragm for signs of damage and/or contamination in accordance with the applicable Kirby Morgan Operations and Maintenance Manual.
6. Reassemble the regulator and reinstall.