

GUIDELINES FOR SHIPBOARD INSPECTIONS OF IMMERSION SUITS BY SHIP'S CREW

When carrying out monthly inspections of immersion suits as required by 46 CFR 199.190(e), 46 CFR 109.301(e) (MODU's), 46 CFR 131.565(a) (OSV's) and SOLAS regulation III/20.7, or annually as required by 46 CFR 28.140 (uninspected commercial fishing industry vessels) the following procedure is recommended:

- ___ 1. Examine storage bag
 - General condition / closures
 - Ease of removal of suit
 - Donning instructions are legible
 - Confirm that suit is the type and size identified on the bag

- ___ 2. Put the suit on a clean, flat surface
 - If suit is wet inside, turn inside-out and hang on large, wooden or plastic hanger in well ventilated area.
 - Visually check all parts of suit for rips, tears, or punctures on front and back side.
 - Visually check condition of the buddy line and lifting harness.
 - If the suit becomes ripped or damaged contact Absolute Outdoor Inc. at 1-877-252-2056 or visit www.kentsafetyproducts.com for the name of a Kent certified repair facility near you.
 - If the suit is soiled, scrub with a mild soap solution (dish soap), rinse with fresh water and allow to dry before repacking. **DO NOT USE SOLVENTS OR DRY CLEAN. SOME SOLVENTS MAY DEGRADE SEAMS OR SUIT MATERIAL.**

- ___ 3. Check the zipper
 - Slide up and down and check for ease of operation
 - Close the zipper and run the lubricating wax up and down of the outside of the zipper. Open and close the zipper 2-3 times, leaving the zipper in the open position.
 - If the zipper does not function properly, remove the suit from service. Contact a Kent certified repair station for repairs.

- ___ 4. Inflatable pillow (auxiliary flotation)
 - Ensure it is fitted properly and all 3 buckle are properly fastened.
 - Visually check for damage or deteriorating components (webbing, buckles, inflation valve and hose)
 - At least quarterly, remove the inflatable pillow. Inflate and check for leaks by submerging in water or let stand inflated for 24 hours. **Caution: Overpressure with compressed air can severely damage the seams of the bladder.**
 - If the inflatable pillow does not hold air contact a Kent certified repair station.

- ___ 5. Check retro-reflective tape. Contact repair facility if replacement is required.

- ___ 6. Check whistle and expiration date of light and battery (if fitted).

- ___ 7. Replace the suit in the bag.
 - To store: Lay flat, put end of inflation hose in pocket, face flap should be attached to Velcro in open position.
 - Make sure zipper is fully opened.
 - Fold hood down to chest. Cross arms of the suit.
 - Starting at feet, roll the whole suit up. Place in bag, close.

- ___ 8. Air pressure test should be done at year 3, 5, 7, and 9. Then done annually after 10 years old.
 - To ensure the adequate strength and watertightness of the seams and closures of the in-service immersion suits, it is recommended that each suit be subjected to an air pressure test at a Kent approved facility or onboard ship with approved equipment.
 - If suit is more than 10 years old an air pressure test should be done annually.

- ___ 9. Training: Take the opportunity during monthly inspections for the crew to practice donning the immersion suits.