

RHODE ISLAND LIFE RAFT SERVICE STATION LOOSES USCG APPROVAL

The U.S. Coast Guard has withdrawn authorization for life raft servicing of Coast Guard-approved rafts at the Jim Givens Survival Company at 64 Halsey St, Newport, Rhode Island. Prior to January 1999, the company was located at 35 Lagoon Rd, Portsmouth, RI. Life rafts serviced at this facility since June 1997, and not yet reserviced at an authorized facility, should be reserviced.

LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS LOSES USCG AUTHORIZATION

Life Support Systems of Honolulu, Hawaii has lost its USCG authorization to repack life rafts. Mariners with life rafts serviced at Life Support are urged to take their rafts to another, authorized outlet for reservicing.

BAYLEY'S IMMERSION SUIT ALERT

The U.S. Coast Guard has published a warning to mariners regarding possible delamination of the red urethane pillow air bladders where they attach to Bayley's immersion suits. Suits manufactured in 1995 and 1996 have the most problems. A properly attached bladder is required for USCG-approval and is extremely vital to survivability, especially when abandoning ship in rough seas.

The necessary repair is relatively simple. Materials needed are methyl ethyl ketone, a stiff brush, cotton cloth, seam roller, and a marking pen.

1. Arrange suit face down. Locate and mark the original bladder placement.
2. Clean area of attachment with methyl ethyl ketone and cotton cleaning cloth.
3. Reactivate original adhesive with methyl ethyl ketone. Use a stiff brush and work well into the original adhesive.
4. Place bladder back on suit and align location marks.
5. Compress joint and roll firmly. Check for adhesive transfer. If adhesive does not transfer, repeat step 3.
6. After bladder is attached, compress joint again after 30 minutes to one hour. Check for adhesive transfer. Note that it takes 24 to 36 hours for a joint to develop good strength, and 72 hours for a complete cure.

It is recommended that an authorized Bayley suit service station conduct the repair. Some of their service stations are:

- Alaska Ship Chandler - Juneau, AK
- Avalon Raft Sales - Wilmington, CA
- Landrigan Corp - East Boston, MA
- Liferaft & Survival Equipment - Portsmouth, RI
- Ocean Safety Services - Homer, AK
- Puget Sound Inflatables - Seattle, WA
- Westpac Marine - Tacoma, WA



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