

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

1 Grinding Disc Failures

One of our members has alerted us to a number of near misses from one of their vessels concerning the breaking up of grinding discs. The latest report states that a newly installed grinding disc broke up and flew apart during use, narrowly missing the operator and his assistant. The nine inch disc had been fitted and was being used by a qualified person. There was no reason to believe that the disc was damaged prior to use. The disc was rated for use at 6800 rpm and was being used on a grinder rated at 6000 rpm.

Subsequent to this report, more failures were reported and the complete batch of discs was taken out of use pending further investigation.

The member involved has observed problems with the following discs:

OHSB disc sizes (230 x 6 x 22.2) and (125 x 6 x 22.2)

Coflex Extra 230 diameter

2 Emergency Communications System Incident

An incident occurred onboard a member's vessel where, as a result of flooding of the external battery pack for the through water communications, electronics in the communications unit were damaged. This caused smoke to enter the bell. As a result the divers had to use their BIBS and masks.

The manufacturer, on investigation of the incident, has found that the pressure relief screw had been incorrectly fitted after the pack had been charged.

All customers have been made aware of the problem and provided with relevant information to modify the supplied unit. To avoid a reoccurrence of the incident the manufacturer has modified its manufacturing procedures and updated its manuals, as well as supplying a field service bulletin.

3 Interspiro Diving Mask

We have recently received the attached Information Note from Interspiro.

4 Electrical Flash Burns

We have recently learned of this incident which occurred on an offshore installation. An electrician suffered superficial flash burns to his face, neck, ears and hands while operating a Merlin Gerin DA-type circuit breaker which was one of three incoming feeds to the platform 440v switchboard. The breaker was in the service position and attempts were being made to close the breaker and energise the switchboard. Difficulties had been experienced in closing the circuit breaker due to a defective component in the closing control circuit. This led to the use of an unapproved procedure, which had not been risk assessed.

The injured party had been standing at the circuit breaker with the panel door open and was using a tool to simultaneously overcome the defect while operating the 'close' push button on the front of the circuit breaker. While carrying out this

action, the tool came into contact with live power circuit conductors which initiated an arcing fault and exposed the injured party to the dissipation of a high energy source.

The company involved has recommended to its personnel that:

1. users review procedures to ensure that any undocumented operations that have become custom and practice are subjected to a risk assessment;
2. users should ensure that all equipment malfunctions that require override procedures to obtain functionality are subjected to risk assessment;
3. all design safety features of equipment should be utilised.

5 Damage to Main Hoist Rope on Liebherr 1080/I Crane

We have recently received the following report. During the lifting of a 15te separator vessel at an onshore gas terminal, the crane operator noticed that damage had occurred to the main hoist rope on the crane, resulting in the failure of a number of hoist rope (wire) strands. The vessel was immediately lowered to the ground and an investigation initiated.

On examination of the crane hoist block, it became evident that the main hoist rope had been incorrectly 'reeved' just prior to the lifting operation, causing the hoist rope to be on the outside on one of the (horizontal) guide pins on the hoist block. As the main hoist rope took the weight of the vessel, the main hoist rope rubbed against the guide pin, causing a partial failure to the main hoist rope and minor damage to the guide pin.

The company found, following investigation:

1. changing the crane hoist uses a routine task – failure was due to complacency and familiarity;
2. there was no 'formal' checklist to confirm adequacy of 'reeving' to main hoist rope/block

The company has initiated the following:

1. issue of a safety flash across all industry sectors to raise awareness of near miss;
2. simple 'checklist' to be developed to ensure 'reeving' and other routine 'alterations' to cranes are checked for adequacy prior to use.

INTERSPIRO

15th February 2000

Divex Limited
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Westhill
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AB326TQ

For the attention of: Mr Glyn Gilbert

Dear Sir

Subject: Interspiro Diving Facemask

It has been brought to our attention that the above item has been the subject of a maintenance bulletin from another of the Interspiro organizations worldwide. The following is a précis of recommendation.

Interspiro has received isolated reports regarding a component of the dive mask assembly. The reports involve the stainless steel locking strap and clip, items 11 and 12 of facemask page of the appended spare parts list), that secures the connection block to the face piece shell.

Investigation has revealed that the stainless steel components have a tendency to exhibit oxidation when exposed to a salt-water environment if they are not properly washed with fresh water after use. A step-by-step guide to after use cleaning is included within the user handbook, which accompanies each Interspiro facemask.

WARNING: Failure to adequately maintain dive masks by washing thoroughly with fresh water after each use in salt water, can adversely affect the locking assembly, causing rust build-up, which if left unattended, may cause the lock to fail.

Interspiro requests that you examine masks under your control to ensure that the correct cleaning procedure has been followed. Any masks exhibiting obvious degradation should be forwarded to your authorized repair technician or to the Interspiro service and repair department for replacement of the affected component at commercial rates.

We trust that this information is suitably clear and thank you in advance for your prompt attention and co-operation on this matter.

Yours sincerely

INTERSPIRO LIMITED

Steve Horobin
Technical Manager

Enc. MKII Spare Parts List
MKII User Handbook

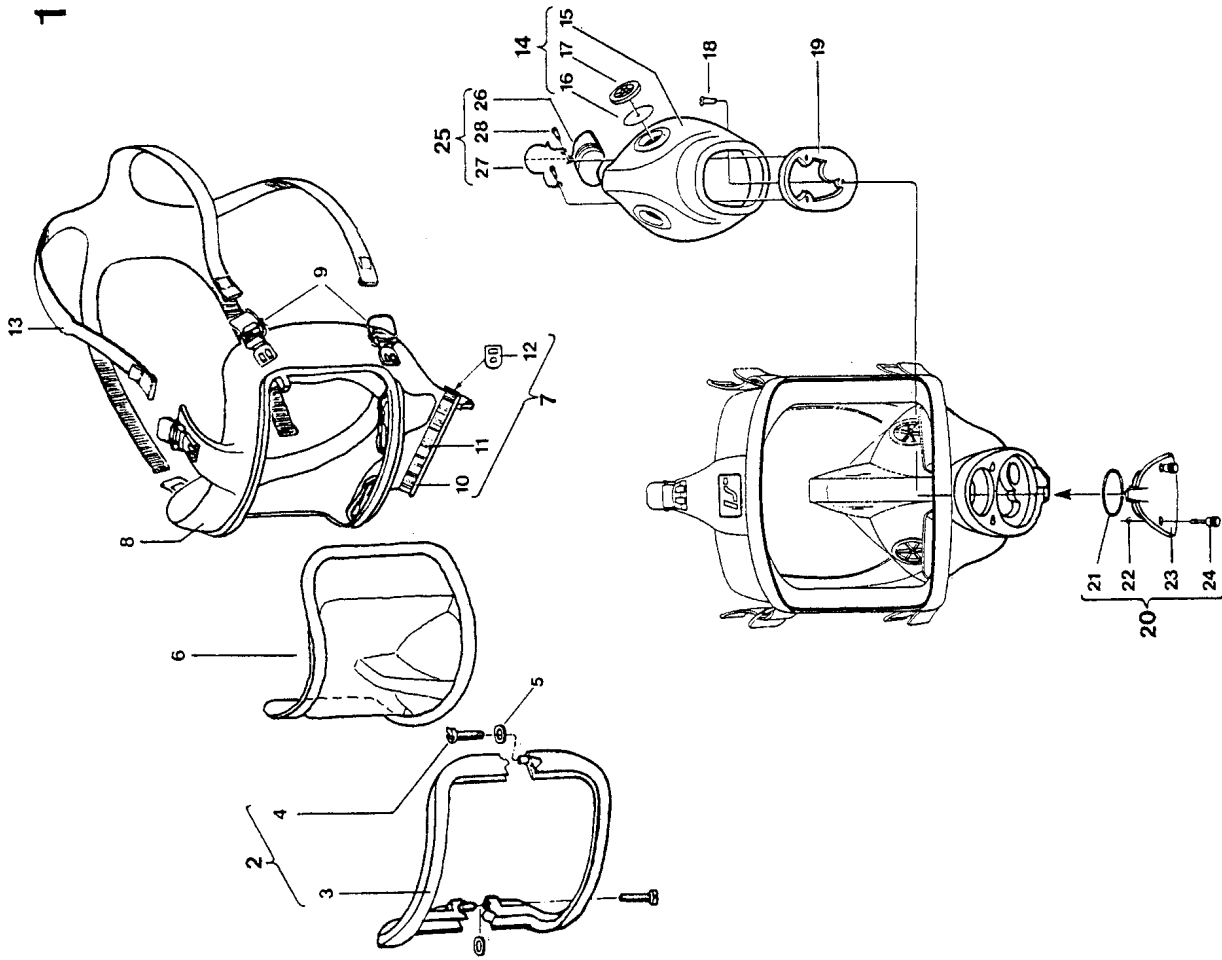
Member of the INTERSPIRO Group

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Registered No 1194705 (LONDON)

DIVING MASK MK II DYKMASK MK II

Item Pos	Qty Ansl	Order No Beställnr	Description	Benämning	Notes Anmärkning
1	1	336 190 352	Face mask	Ansiktsmask kompl.	
2	1	336 190 359	- Visor frame assembly	- Ram komplett	*
3	2	336 100 398	- Frame half	- Ramhalva	Ingår i/Part of 336 190 850 *
4	2	336 900 097	- Screw	- Skruv	Ingår i/Part of 336 190 850 *
5	2	336 100 890	- Spacer	- Bricka	Se nedan
6	1	336 190 850	- Low volume visor	- Lågvolymglas	*
7	1	336 190 355	- Mask body assembly	- Maskstomme kompl.	*
8	1	336 100 032	- Mask body	- Maskstomme	*
9	5	336 190 263	- Buckle assembly	- Spänne kompl.	3 pack
10	1	336 190 020	- Valve connection	- Anslutningsdel	*
11	-	331 900 079	- Locking strap	- Låsbånd	*
12	1	331 900 080	- Strap loc	- Bandlås	*
13	1	336 100 809	- Head harness	- Bandställ	*
14	1	336 190 286	- Inner mask assembly	- Innermask kompl.	*
15	1	336 900 024	- Innermask	- Innermask	
16	2	336 190 264	- Valve disc	- Ventilbricka	10 pack
17	2	336 900 021	- Valve seat	- Ventilåsa	10 pack
18	1	336 190 246	- Screw	- Skruv	*
19	1	336 100 018	- Retaining plate	- Innermaskplatta	*
20	1	336 190 017	Cover assembly	Blindlock kompl.	336 190 123 **
21	1	336 190 222	- O-ring	- O-ring	5 pack
22	2	336 190 255	- Circlip	- Spårtrytare	1 ^o pack
23	1	336 100 028	- Cover	- Blindlock	*
24	2	336 100 029	- Screw	- Skruv	336 100 203 **
25	1	336 190 373	Pressure equalizer	Tryckutjämnare	
26	1	336 100 490	- Push pad	- Tryckplatta	
27	1	336 100 491	- Holder	- Hållare	
28	2	941 136 226	- Screw	- Skruv	



Note! Item 2: Visor frame assembly consists of item 6, 5 and 4.
For visor, flat use screw 336 190 245 (10-pack) and nut 336 100 098.
OBS! Pos 2: Lågvolymglas består av Pos 6, 5 och 4. För plant glas 331 100 679
skall skruv 336 190 245 (10-pack) och mutter 336 100 098 användas

* Not stocked separately/lagerförs ej separat
** For diving communication.
För radiotillsats och dyktelefon. Skruvarna är 10 mm långa