

JFD COBRA Safety Notice

Your attention is brought to the following safety notice issued by JFD. JFD is instructing all users to cease COBRA diving operations immediately until such time as replacement parts can be made available.



COBRA Bailout System
17 November 2020
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COBRA SAFETY NOTICE



A diving operator has recently reported an incident where a COBRA set was found to be extensively flooded. During a routine drill, a diver activated the COBRA set and ingested a quantity of water. The diver deactivated the COBRA set and returned to the bell safely.

This incident happened with a COBRA set which was delivered in July 2020 and had been put into service in October 2020.

The Health and Safety Executive was notified and with their agreement, the COBRA backpack and helmet were returned to JFD for investigation.

The investigation established that there was a leak from the Hot Water Jacket into the interior of the Scrubber Housing. This leak occurred under test conditions that are within the acceptable operating pressure of the Hot Water System. The COBRA set and Helmet were found to be in good order otherwise.

Subsequent dimensional inspection identified that the Hot Water Spiral around the Scrubber Housing did not conform to the design drawing. JFD is currently investigating which COBRA sets these defective parts have been installed in.

The internal review conducted by JFD has also identified an improved and inherently safe means to seal the scrubber to mitigate against any possible water ingress. This means that any over pressure in the Hot Water System, any manufacturing anomalies in the Hot Water Jacket, or any deformation of the Hot Water Jacket when in service would no longer cause a potential leak path from the hot water system directly into the breathing loop.

For this reason, JFD is instructing all users to cease COBRA diving operations immediately until such time as replacement parts can be made available.

The design of the replacement housing is being undertaken by the JFD Engineering team. Once the design is finalised, a prototype will be manufactured and the design performance validated. When validated and approved, JFD will manufacture replacement parts that can be retro-fitted to all COBRA dive sets in the field. It is expected that this process will take a minimum period of 90 days, but may take longer. However every effort will be made to complete this exercise and have parts available as quickly as possible.

Your ongoing understanding and support in this matter is much appreciated.

Please contact Graeme Clark (Head of Commercial Products) for any further updates.

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https://www.jfdglobal.com/files/5116/0579/4608/DB500-PCN-1_R0.pdf

For more information, please contact philip.towers@imca-int.com

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